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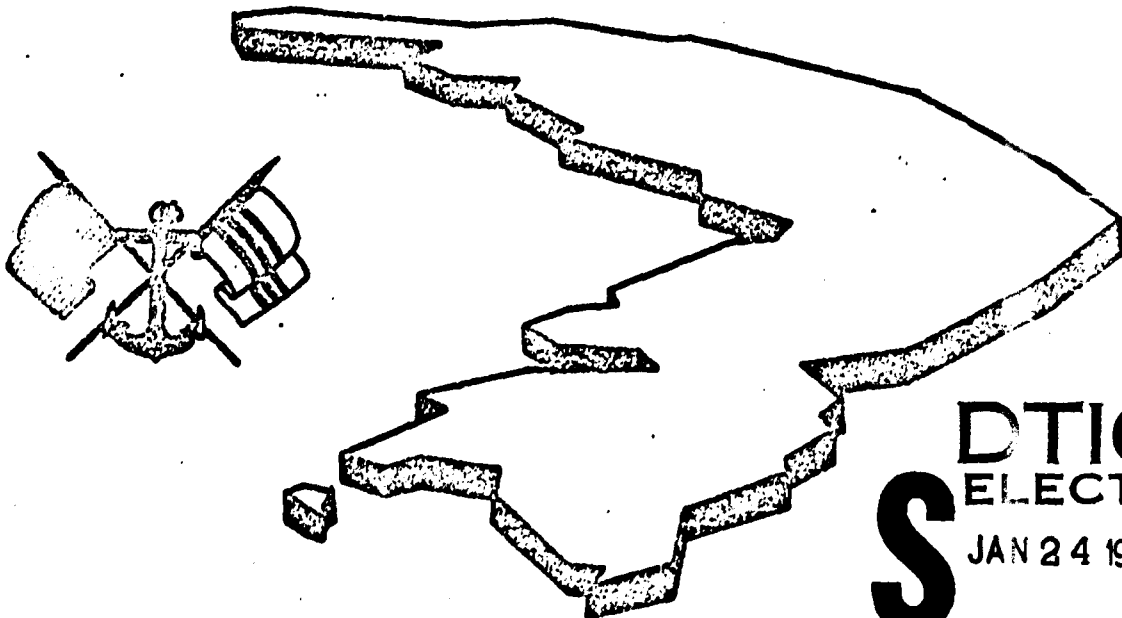
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## MONTHLY HISTORICAL SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 1969

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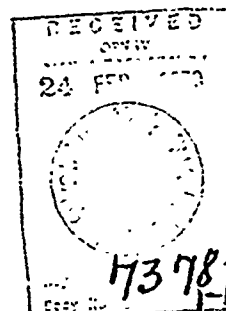
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NOVEMBER 1969

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Sweeping ARVN troops captured a Viet Cong soldier hiding in this underground bunker during an amphibious operation.

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OPERATION SEA LORDS SUMMARY

At a time when the NVA is trying to force Navy units off the interdiction barriers, SEA LORDS forces during November increased the interdiction density on the barriers along the Cambodian border. In response to intelligence reports placing the forward element of the NVA First Division in Northwestern Kien Tuong Province and additional reports indicating the transit of sizeable VC/NVA units into the "Crow's Nest" area of Cambodia situated just to the north of Moc Hoa and the Vam Co Tay River (area bounded by WT 960 000, XS 010 985, XT 010 050, and WT 960 050), reinforcement of the barriers was carried out in order to disrupt enemy infiltration south across the Plain of Reeds into Dinh Tuong Province, or should he choose to move west inside Cambodia, to oppose his eventual attempts to infiltrate into the "Seven Mountains" area or the U-Minh Forest.

The friendly build up of forces was augmented by sailing the USS BENEFAN (APB-35) on 12 November to a new station in the vicinity of An Long (debarking CTG 194.7 at Dong Tam enroute) to provide support for the already greatly expanded Tran Hung Dao/Barrier Reef operations, by relocating RAD 152 RAC that were previously assigned to the Vam Co River area to An Long for operations in Barrier Reef West, and by having Giant Slingshot units located at Moc Hoa conduct operations (WEGP's) along the upper Vam Co Tay, the Rach Long Knot, the Rach Cai Rang, and the Rach Bong Sung to determine the presence and movement of enemy forces in these areas while reinforcing the WEGP's with units based at Tuyen Nhon as required.

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During the month of November, combined SEA LORDS forces operating in the Border Interdiction, Giant Slingshot, Search Turn, Ready Deck, and Breezy Cove campaigns accounted for a total of 254 enemy killed (by body count) and 22 captured. Friendly casualties for these campaigns amounted to 16 killed and 104 wounded. A breakdown of USN and VNN SEA LORDS statistics for November and statistical totals computed since the start of operations are located at the end of this section.

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Giant Slingshot

At the end of November, the Giant Slingshot Campaign had 135 river craft and four Seawolves assigned. The river craft were: 68 PBR's, 28 RAC, 33 VNN craft, two MSM's, and four Boston Whalers. Besides performing escort duty, troop lifts, blocking and support missions, Giant Slingshot units set up an average of 27 one and two boat WBP's daily during the month.

On 13 November, by drawing down on Giant Slingshot assets, the Can Glouc Interdiction unit was formed - LT Scarborough, USN, assuming CTU 194.9.8 on board the USS SPHINX (ARL-24). The RAC element, CTE 194.9.8.2 (also LT Scarborough), is tasked with providing RAC lift for FMAF troops in the Can Glouc District vacated the previous day by the BENEWAH and RAD 152.

In the afternoon on 2 November, Patrol Officer RMC Gage was conducting routine waterborne traffic checks in the vicinity of Hiep Hoa with 2 PBR's when a local Vietnamese volunteered to take the PBR's to an enemy weapons location (XT 428 059). Upon arrival there, two MK18 Claymores were found aimed at the river and positioned to inflict damage and personnel casualties to passing river craft. This incident in which valuable information was passed directly to PBR's is indicative of the success of the local psyops effort.

A few days later on 6 November, ATC-35 under Patrol Officer EM1 Lostiha was in night WBP ten miles northwest of Go Dau Ha (XT 250 350) when a sampan with six personnel was spotted crossing the Vam Co Dong River. The sampan was taken under fire, and with the help of artillery illumination and a Black Pony strike, three VC were killed and three more probably killed.

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Thirty-six hours later, local civilians directed two U. S. Navy units to a VC body floating in the brush. The body had three clips of AK-47 ammunition attached and is believed to have come from the sampan ATC-35 took under fire earlier.

To the north of Go Dau Ha at a point on the Van Co Dong River directly south of Tay Ninh City (XT 225 430), 500 meters down river from the ATSB located at Ben Kso, a VNN unit hit a mine on 7 November and sank in 15 feet of water. Two VNN were killed and three were wounded. In a reaction that was a precautionary measure, CTU 194.9.3 had all units stand clear of the area while heavy assets conducted a chain drag sweep on both sides of the base camp.

To the south in Long An Province, a joint/combined WEGP was established on the night of 12 November five miles southwest of Ben Luc (XS 662 683). Just after nightfall, two VC were seen moving toward the two RAID 70 ATC's, and they were taken under fire. The U. S. Army troops were extracted to allow an OV-10 strike and reinserted following the strike at which time they discovered two VC bodies and a B-40 rocket. Snipers aboard the boats sighted four more VC and took them under fire probably killing all four. There were no friendly casualties.

Five miles to the southeast of the previous incident, three ATC's and 2 ASFB's were proceeding up the Xom Bo Canal (XS 735 650) with troops embarked on 14 November when they sighted movement on the banks. The troops (A/6/31st) were inserted, and four VC were seen running south. One grenade thrown by a VC detonated against the side of T-29, and a second detonated near the troops seriously wounding one soldier. An LHFT put in a strike



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followed by artillery and TACAIR. In the action, three VC were killed, and one bunker was destroyed.

Also in the same vicinity, on 19 November, the national police detained a 17 year old male who revealed knowledge of the whereabouts of three caches. The detainee was willing to lead troops to the area so a reconnaissance platoon from the U. S. 5/60th Infantry Battalion was embarked aboard two ASPB's of RAID 71 which inserted them at a point on the Vam Co Dong River 7 miles southeast of Ben Luc (XS 662 663). During the sweep that followed, four caches were found containing: 150 booby traps, 130 Chicom grenades, 25 pounds of Chicom plastique, ten pounds of documents, three boxes of toe-poppers (booby trapped with a 122mm rocket), and one starlight scope.

The next day, 40 CIDG troops and two U. S. Army advisors were inserted by Navy units four miles east of Tuyen Nhon (XS 348 805) at a position given by a Hoi Chanh. There a cache was found which contained the following items: 20 Springfield rifles (U.S.), 16 carbines (Chicom), two sniper rifles with scopes (Soviet), 9,000 meters of electrical wire, five mines, 60 grenades, 2,000 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, one B-40 round, one box of fuzes, and two scopes for a Soviet rifle.

The 21st of November made the third day in a row that a cache was uncovered. A Douche boat, operating in company with a VNN ATC of RAID 70, washed up a cache on the east bank of the Vam Co Dong five miles northwest of Tra Cu (XT 462 044). Buried under a large mound in metal containers, the cache consisted of: 2,840 AK rounds, 1,890 12.7mm rounds, 15 82mm mortar

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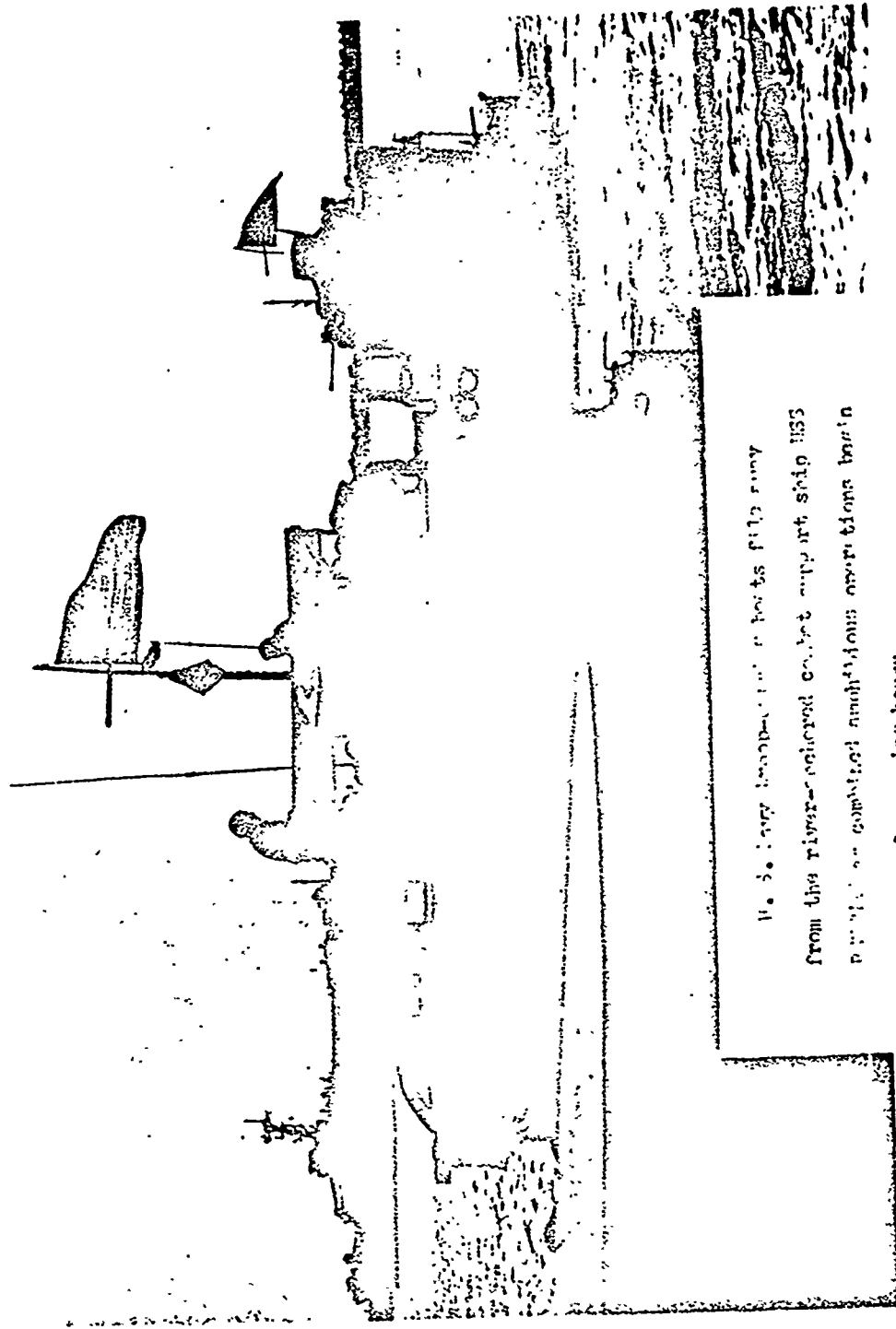
fuzes, 720 7.62mm rounds (long). All munitions were in excellent condition with the exception of the 7.62mm rounds.

At the same time that the cache discoveries were being made along the Vam Co Dong, Vam Co Tay forces were also busy. Four PBR's in WEGP on the night of 20 November sighted eight swimmers with packs crossing the river from south to north six miles northwest of Moc Hoa (WS 956 974) and commenced fire when swimmers were in midstream. A platoon of CIDG were inserted on the north bank and swept the area with negative results. Four bodies which had sunk were found when the river was searched. Their packs contained 27 AK-47 magazines, 8 carbine magazines, a small amount of documents, and 47,500 piasters.

Three days later, VNN PBR's of RFG-53 were on routine patrol on the night of 23 November when they observed 8-10 persons using a starlight scope on the beach seven miles northwest of Tan An (XS 437 763). The area was taken under fire and direct hits were observed. The VNN PBR's made numerous firing runs and received light small arms fire. Seawolves were called and put in a strike. Results of the action were five VC killed and 3-5 probably killed. There were no friendly casualties.

On the last day of the month, LT Johnson, Flight Commander, and LTJG Hall, Wing Pilot, were scrambled in support of Long An RF/PF troops in contact seven miles southeast of Tan An (XS 621 571). The Seawolves placed multiple rocket and machine gun strikes into the area and were credited with killing five VC.

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U. S. Army transportation boats file away  
from the river-colored canal ship at ship 1153  
p.m. on completed amphibious operations basin  
in the early morning hours.

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Border Interdiction Campaign

Border Interdiction forces were increased again in November and at the end of the month consisted of 61 PBR's (10 VNN), 22 junks, 8 PCF's (4 VNN), 54 RAC, 50 KSB's, 6 MSR's, 6 MSD's, 2 refuelers, 5 whalers, and 6 Seawolves. This continued buildup of friendly forces has enabled the operations in the Border Interdiction Campaign to be greatly expanded. Tran Hung Dao units averaged a total of 68 WBGPs nightly during November with Barrier Reef forces averaging 19.

This expansion of operations, along with new tactics such as single boat WBGPs, US and VN manned NOD sites, TPS-25, SLAR, OV-10/UH-1B coordinated air coverage, and Kenner Ski Barge operations (which commenced on 8 November), has significantly effected enemy operations. Faced with heavy losses suffered in border crossing attempts and a backlog of supplies in Cambodia at a time when they are needed in the south for the Winter-Spring Campaign, the enemy has increased his aggressiveness against the interdicting units along the Vinh Te Canal. During November, the heaviest enemy initiated fire fights ever recorded in that area took place lending credence to the statement made in last month's summary that the enemy prefers attempting to breach the Tran Hung Dao barrier rather than effect the extensive commo-liaison reorganization that would be required if he were forced to make end runs through the coastal waters of north-west Kien Giang Province or down the Bassac/Mekong River Corridor.

In the first significant incident of the month which occurred on 2 November, a RAD 132 ATC (T-10) was in WBGF on the north bank of the Vinh Te Canal 17 miles northeast of Ha Tien (VS 724 616) when two sampans were sighted about 200 yards

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up the canal on the south bank (VS 725 614). One of the sampans had five persons embarked and was proceeding across the canal as both sampans were taken under fire with small arms and 40mm grenades by T-10 which scored several direct hits. Friendly fire was augmented by LIDB troops in guard post positions still further up the canal (VS 730 613). Later the LIDB's were transported across the river to the contact site for a sweep of the area. In all, six sampans, two AK-50's, one K-54 pistol, five web belts with grenades and ammunition, ten magazines, 25 rounds of AK ammunition, and some documents, clothing and personal gear were captured. Four VC were killed and two wounded in the action while there were no friendly casualties.

The same day, a RIVDIV 515 PBR was enroute to a WBCP position having just left YHEM-21 when an explosion occurred on board wounding two USN crewmen (one serious, one minor) and doing serious hull damage to the PBR. Investigation of the craft established the possibility of sabotage, and indications were that some unidentifiable charge (possibly a concussion grenade) had been installed in a gallon cooking oil can setting on the deck in the coxswain's flat. An immediate inspection of all other boats was conducted with negative results.

On the 4th of November, a MINDIV 113 MSR, while patrolling on the Tan Chau/Chau Doc Canal, was ambushed and received recoilless rifle, small arms, and automatic weapons fire from both banks (WS 200 962). A direct hit by a recoilless rifle round was sustained forward on the port side one foot above the waterline spraying shrapnel throughout the boat wounding five USN. Five additional recoilless rifle or B-40 rounds detonated nearby as fire was

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being returned by the MSR which by now had lost steering control and the port engine in the kill zone. Five additional B-40's struck the boat on the lifeline stanchions aft, and automatic weapons fire put approximately 40 holes in the craft. Seawolves from HAL 3, Det 9 and Det 5, were called in to provide illumination, cover, and medevac. They conducted a visual reconnaissance and made no sightings and were unable to medevac the wounded because the MSR was drifting. PBR's on Mekong patrol which had been diverted to assist conducted the medevac while a PCF towed the MSR to YRHM-20 at Chou Doc seven miles away. Enemy casualties in the engagement are unknown.

The following day on 5 November the enemy accomplished another successful ambush, this time against a RAD 132 ATC (T-16) as it was enroute to WEGP on the Vinh Te Canal 16 miles northeast of Ha Tien (VS 630 635). Coming under heavy rocket and automatic weapons fire, the ATC received three rocket hits on the starboard side causing minor hull damage but killing one USN bos'nmate. Seawolves and Black Ponies on patrol were diverted along with other boats in the area; all made firing runs and received heavy return fire. The Black Pony sighted two sampans 200 meters north of the canal (vic VS 637 637) and destroyed them. Other enemy casualties are unknown.

In response to a request by Commander RAD 132, troops from the VN LLDB Camp, Vinh Gia, conducted an intensive sweep of a section of the northbank of the Vinh Te Canal on 8 November. During the sweep, the troops located 35 40 kilo mines between G/L VS 645 and VS 765. These and nine other contact mines were found and destroyed; forty were in cartons, and four were ready to fire and implanted at VS 642 634. Three

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loaded B-40 command detonated rocket launchers were also captured in the same area.

In the evening of 9 November, four RAD 132 units were proceeding west on the Vinh Te Canal to assist RIVDIV 532 units in contact 12 miles north-east of Ha Tien (VS 615 635). While still three miles to the east of the PBR's, RAD 132 units came under intense B-40 and semi-automatic weapons fire (VS 642 634). Fire was immediately returned by the boats, Seawolves were scrambled and placed strikes, and a Black Pony patrol was also directed to place strikes in the area. In the meantime, one of the ATC's (T-23) proceeded to a rendezvous with RIVDIV PBR's and coordinated the medevac of two wounded RIVDIV men by Seawolves. About an hour after they were ambushed, RAD 132 units opened fire on VC movement a mile to the west (VS 630 635) and called in a Black Pony airstrike. Total enemy casualties were at first believed to be three VC probably killed, but a later report by NILO Ha Tien attributed 8 VC killed and 17 VC wounded to the RAD craft.

The following night, seven miles east of the preceding incident (VS 745 615), a RIVDIV 535 PBR with LIDB troops assigned for boat defense and engaged a VC element of unknown size. PBR personnel sighted one sampan on the north bank and initiated fire. Later a Black Pony placed a strike in the contact area. Two enemy were killed and three B-40 rockets were captured during the action in which there were no friendly casualties.

On 12 November, three ATC's and a monitor in a column formation were ambushed with heavy rocket and automatic weapons fire from the north bank of the

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Vinh Te Canal 17 miles northeast of Ha Tien (VS 660 633). The initial volleys of B-40 fire were directed at the last unit in the column with subsequent RPG's hitting all the units. T-23 took two rocket hits with shrapnel penetrating into the engine room causing a port engine casualty. T-24 received one rocket hit which damaged the armor but did not penetrate the hull; M-6 had one rocket penetrate the starboard side approximately three and one half feet above the waterline causing minor damage to electrical cables and two rockets penetrate the starboard auxillary fuel tank. And, T-15 was hit by three rockets, two of which detonated in the well deck and the other of which penetrated the starboard styrofoam. Waterborne units returned fire, and Black Ponies and Seawolves placed strikes in the area with unknown results. Friendly casualties were one CIDG killed, one VNN killed, five USN wounded, and one VNN wounded. This was the heaviest enemy initiated firefight ever reported on the Vinh Te Canal, and it followed by less than an hour H and I fire along the banks by Seawolves and waterborne units.

Four units of RAD 132 were hit hard again on the night of 18 November. This time, while enroute to WEGP, they met with a heavy rocket attack and automatic weapons fire from both banks of the Vinh Te Canal (VS 631 635), two miles west of where they were ambushed on 12 November. The Monitor and three Tango boats immediately returned fire, and a Zippo boat (Z-4) proceeded to the area and placed four minutes of flame on both banks. Seawolves, which were overhead almost immediately placed strikes on the north bank and commenced medevac of the seriously wounded. In the battle, T-24 was hit by a rocket in the lower section of the flight deck; T-21 was hit by rockets on both the port and starboard sides at the waterline and in the well deck; M-6 took a

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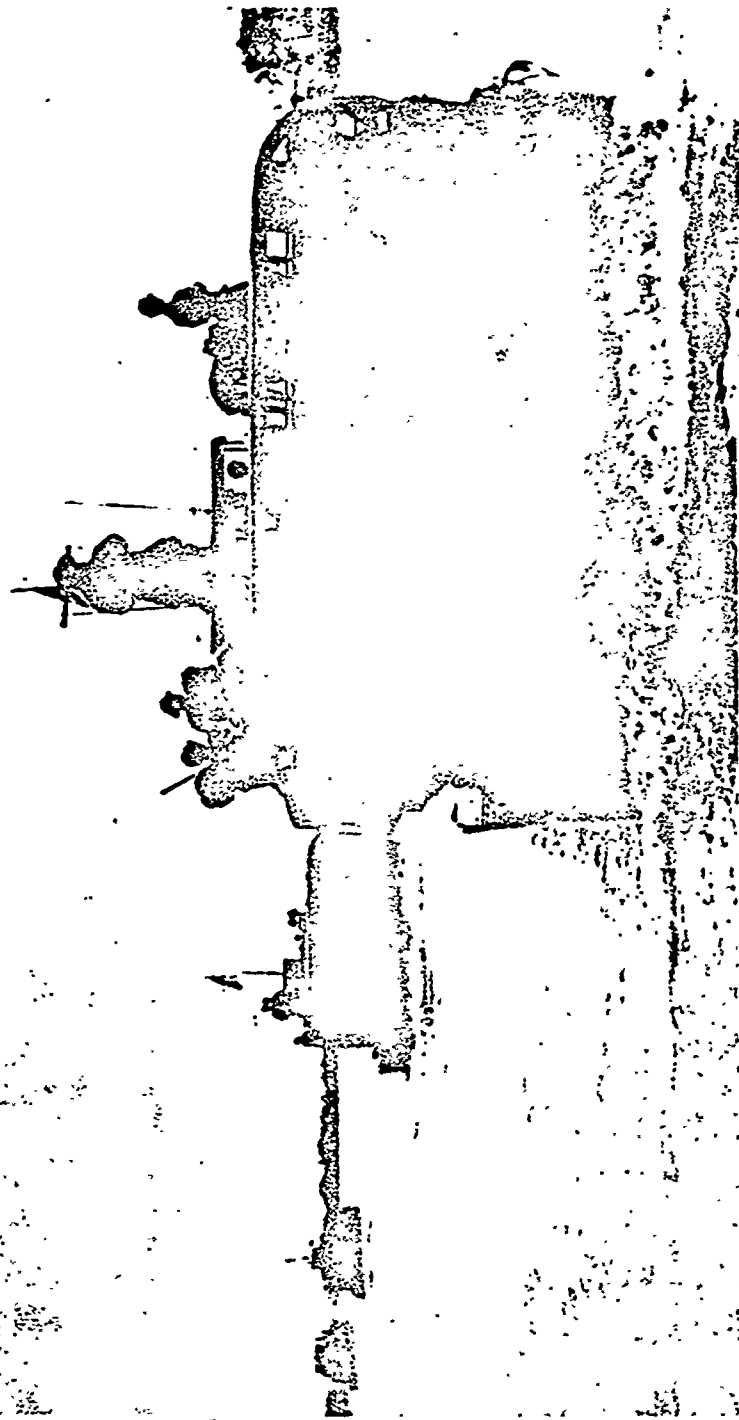


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rocket hit on the 105mm mount, port side waterline, and coxswain flat; and T-16 took a rocket in the boat captain's seat. Friendly casualties which resulted were: eight USN wounded, three VAM wounded, and one USN killed, LTJG James F. Rost Jr. A sweep of the contact area the next morning showed evidence of being thoroughly policed by the enemy. The area had been completely covered by Zippo flame, and numerous blood trails were observed. It is estimated that approximately 40 VC participated in the ambush and that eight VC were probably killed. One VC body was found.

Seven loaded sampans were sighted moving southwest off the Mekong River eight miles southeast of An Long (WS 490 710) at 0145 on 20 November by Seawolves 309 and 332. The helos, with district clearance and concurrence of CTG 194.4, illuminated the area and placed strikes on the evading sampans which were showing neither lights nor flags. Enemy casualties which resulted were: four VC killed, two VC probably killed, and four sampans destroyed. There was negative return fire, and there were no friendly casualties.

A VC swimmer was sighted 50 meters from a RAD 152 Zippo in WGP 17 miles northeast of Ha Tien (VS 665 633) at 0255 on the morning of 21 November. After two concussion grenades were thrown by boat personnel, the swimmer surfaced near the craft and was shot and killed with an M-16.



up insert - 1 - 1000 the view

of the 1000 ft. high, steeply rising

on the 1000 ft. high, steeply rising

on the 1000 ft. high, steeply rising

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Search Turn

Search Turn units, Task Group 194.3, with an end of month strength of 33 water craft, which included 27 PBR's, three Boston Whalers, 2 MSD's, and one CCB, and two Seawolves assigned, continued interdiction operations in Kien Giang Province and the Gulf of Thailand during November. They also supported Sector and 21st ARVN Division operations. On the 7th of month, SEAL Platoon Kilo, Det G was chopped to CTG 194.3 and assumed task designator 194.3.6, A squad being designated TE 194.3.6.1 and B squad 194.3.6.2.

During the month, the number of hostile fire incidents rose slightly from 26 recorded in October to 31 in November. The number of enemy kills, however, increased considerably from 22 kills and 15 probable kills in October to 40 kills and 57 probable kills this month as a result of an increased level of enemy incidents in the Search Turn AO and an upswing in logistics activity on the already established commo-liaison routes. Search Turn units also accounted for 27 enemy craft destroyed, four damaged, and eight captured as well as for 34 structures destroyed and two damaged while their losses were kept down to 2 USN killed and six wounded and five friendlies wounded. They did, however, lose one craft and have another damaged. The following incident narrative is typical of activity in the Search Turn A. O.

Units of RIVDIV 513 operating in Kien Giang Province on the night of 31 October - 1 November under Patrol Officer ABHC Hicks in reaction to intelligence reports broke a WEGP located 22 miles southeast of Rach Gia (WR 393 916) and had proceeded about one mile (WR 384 915) when they found and sank one sampan, and continuing on to their destination three miles further downstream (WR 349 923), the cover boat was hit by B-40 fire (WR 373 923). There

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was one direct hit on the forward gun tube, and fire was received from approximately 12 automatic weapons positions. The lead boat was hit by a water mine during the attack, but no hull damage was done although two M-60 machine guns were rendered inoperable. The boats returned the fire and then cleared the kill zone. Seawolves medevaced three U. S. wounded and one VNN wounded. The patrol returned to Kien Binh and delivered six VNN for medevac. Friendly casualties included 11 wounded, four USN wounded, six VNRF wounded, and one RF killed. Enemy casualties are unknown.

While in single boat guardpost on the morning of 16-17 November, as part of a 12 boat interdiction line, PBR 8131 of RIVDIV 553 observed sampans carrying at least 9 VC crossing the Be The Canal 75 meters south of its position at WS 089 263, 13 miles north of Rach Gia. The sampans were taken under fire, and almost immediately, the PBR received one B-40 hit on the M-60 machine gun although other units observed two more B-40's fired from the east side of the canal. The PBR broke guardpost and proceeded 750 meters north to another PBR also in guardpost position. Both units then received heavy automatic weapons fire from both banks, and Seawolves were scrambled. They were on station 14 minutes later and put in a strike. A Black Pony also put in a strike with a Spooky aircraft providing illumination. Sporadic movement firing continued throughout the night. An early morning sweep produced negative results. Friendly casualties were two USN killed, two USN wounded (slight), one VNN wounded (serious). Enemy casualties are unknown.

In the early morning of 18 November, two PBR's of RIVDIV 553 were in WGP in the same area as the previous incident (WS 090 268) as part of the

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Ba The Interdiction Line when movement was detected on the east bank of the canal. One VC was observed herding water buffalo with five VC using the buffalo as blockers. The units placed 40mm fire behind the buffalo and observed one VC fall. There was no return fire, and deep water in the field prevented a sweep. There were no friendly casualties.

From their position 20 miles northwest of Rach Gia on the Tri Ton Canal (VS 965 318), PBR's of RIVDIV 553, during the evening of 17 November, observed a crossing party traversing the canal from west to east. It was taken under fire, and A/W fire was returned. Seawolves were called in five minutes later, but poor visibility prevented a strike. A sweep at first light revealed the following cache in three sampans: 28,000 7.62mm rounds, 11 120mm rockets, three AK-47's, one carbine, two Chicom grenades, miscellaneous clothing, web gear, and letters. The documents and letters were turned over to NILO Rach Gia. There were no friendly casualties, and enemy casualties were seven VC killed (BC).

At 0130 on the morning of 20 November, units of RIVDIV 553 positioned 13 miles north of Rach Gia observed two or three sampans and eight VC going north to south parallel to the Ba The Canal. A PBR opened fire and received A/W fire in return. At 0155, Seawolves made three firing runs in the contact area. A sweep made with troops at 0300 revealed another damaged sampan. There were no friendly casualties. Enemy casualties included four VC killed (BC), three males and one female, two VC were probably killed and two VC probably wounded. Captured were two AK-47's, six ammunition boxes containing documents and medical supplies, a 100 kilo mine, and two gas masks. One document appeared to be a map of infiltration routes of this A. O. The documents were sent to NILO Rach Gia. The remainder of the material was turned over to VN authorities.

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Later on the same day, five PER's of RIVDIV 513 inserted 100 troops of the 168th RF Company and the Than Bao Reconnaissance Platoon 18 miles east southeast of Rach Gia (WR 394 008) and provided blocking support. The troops immediately contacted a VC force of undetermined size which was believed to be part of the U-Minh Battalion. While providing fire support, the five PER's came under fire from several B-40 and A/W positions in treesline concealed bunkers. Nine B-40's were fired. Two rockets struck the lead PER in the radio compartment and set the fuel tanks on fire. PER 694 was abandoned in flame, and secondary explosions occurred caused by mortar ammunition on board. About one mile up the canal (WS 399 018), the third PER in formation was struck on the forecastle by a B-40 rocket. The PER's made firing runs to clear the area and requested Seawolves. They arrived on the scene but could not make a strike due to the artillery in the area. One Black Pony strike, one TACAIR strike and a VNAF strike were placed in the contact area. Upon completion of the air strikes, the PER's returned and extracted the troops from the contact area. Friendly casualties included one VN wounded, one USN slightly wounded, and one PER totally destroyed. All of its installed weapons and communications were recovered or destroyed. Enemy casualties were eight killed (BC), one sampan, six structures, and four bunkers destroyed, and 20 grenades captured.

On 21 November, units of RIVDIV 594, while enroute to a WEGP, sighted a sampan which appeared to have a rifle and wooden box aboard passing in the opposite direction at a point 13 miles northwest of Rach Gia (VS 980 222). The sampan was hailed but evaded to the beach where the occupants left the sampan and ran inland on the northern side of the canal. The PER's beached

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and fired warning shots at an evading man who refused to stop. He was then taken under fire with an M-16 wounding him in the leg. Before personnel could disembark to recover the wounded man, two people from a nearby house, a woman and an elderly man, ran into the field and began to drag the man away. The PBR's first verbally warned the people away and then fired warning shots, but the two continued to drag the man toward the house. The PBR then fired warning shots in front of them; both people dropped, wounded by stray rounds or rounds deflected by the ground. At no time did the PBR fire directly at the people. All three were placed aboard the PBR and returned to Kien Son for treatment by Army personnel. A search of the sampan showed no weapons aboard, but any cargo could have been thrown overboard before the sampan beached. The elderly man who attempted to remove the evadee died on arrival at Kien Son. The evadee and the woman were wounded in the leg and thigh areas; a medic was requested by the Kien Son District Advisor. These three persons had no ID cards in their possession. At the time, however, the young man and woman claimed to be married.

During the afternoon of 27 November, LCDR Gobble of CTG 194.3, taking a target of opportunity under fire, placed a Thanksgiving Day dinner assault on a hungry outpost 16 miles northwest of Rach Gia (VS 922 261) which harbored a friendly PBR unit. Expenditures included 7.62 turkeys, 2.75 hams, 1500 rounds of cranberries, 40oz candied yams, and one large pumpkin pie with marshmallow topping. All ordnance was digested immediately. Friendly casualties included many upset stomachs and seven cases of acute indigestion.

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While in NWBGP on 28 November, 19 miles northwest of Rach Gia (VS 965 315), a PBR of RIVDIV 553 observed 18 VC approaching from the west of its location. The PBR waited until the crossing point was established and then opened fire with all weapons. The boat received heavy automatic weapons fire including B-40 fire from the west bank which passed over PBR 8130 and impacted in the east bank. The PBR remained in guardpost position and suppressed fire. Seawolves, Black Ponies, and an Army gunship and flare ship put in strikes. Shortly after midnight, artillery was utilized, and the PBR received a small amount of fire from a wounded VC on the beach which was suppressed. A sweep at first light yielded a satchel with 11,500 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 42 rounds of 82mm mortars in a packing can, numerous 82mm mortar fuzes, one AK-47, one M-1 carbine, seven packs containing green and gray uniforms and NVA gas masks, 200 kilos of rice, and miscellaneous medicine and documents. In addition, six VC bodies were found as well as numerous body parts within 75 meters of the PBR's. The cache was delivered to VN authorities while the documents were held for NILO Rach Gia. One slightly wounded USN was the only friendly casualty while enemy casualties included six VC killed (BC), six VC probably killed, and six VC probably killed by air strikes.



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Riverine Strike Group

During the last half of November, out of all 119 RAC craft, only six remained under the operational control of CTG 194.7 (all in overhaul). This arrangement came about with the build up of border interdiction forces as described in the introduction to the SEA LORDS section of this summary, and as a result of chopping RAD 131 and RAD 152 units operating in the "Breezy Cove" AO from CTG 194.7 to CTG 194.2 on 17 November.

During the first half of the month, the "Riverine Strike Group" killed nine VC, captured eight, and wounded 16, while having ten USN wounded, one VNN wounded, and one VNN killed. The "RSG," while it was still operating in November, lifted a total of 2,280 troops in support of U. S. Army 9th Infantry and 25th ARVN Division troops. In addition, the units conducted frequent interdiction patrols on the Vam Co River.

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Market Time Raider Campaign

The Market Time Raiders conducted 67 missions during November in support of Operations Sea Lords and Sea Float, along the rivers and canals of the III and IV Coastal Zones. These missions employed from two to six PCF's and were supported by U.S. Coast Guard WPB's and one WHEC, River Assault Craft, helicopters, OV-10's and OH-6's and Vietnamese Navy assets. The "Swift" boats inserted, extracted and supported ground forces consisting of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Teams, SEAL's, Underwater Demolition Teams, PRU's, RF/PF troops, MST, VNN Rangers and VNN Reaction Force. There were only 10 incidents of enemy initiated fire fights reported during November. There were no U.S. casualties or craft damaged; however, there were two friendly personnel killed and 10 wounded.

Enemy personnel losses decreased from October with 17 Viet Cong killed, 13 wounded and two captured. Enemy material losses also decreased with 29 craft and 123 structures destroyed and 51 structures damaged.

A Sea Lords mission was conducted on the morning of 4 November about 22 miles northeast of Soc Trang (XR 228 755). PCF's 64, 24, 28, 53 and 54 embarked 150 RF and PF troops and inserted them at various locations on a small island in the Bassac River. The "Swift" boats then stoodby as a blocking force while the troops made a sweep of the area and U.S. and Australian EOD teams destroyed bunkers. The troops sighted several VC and PCF 64 fired 81mm mortars into the area. The troops were extracted at 1330H without incident. There were no friendly casualties and enemy casualties are unknown. There were six structures and five bunkers destroyed. In

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addition the "Swift" boats boarded and searched 85 sampans with negative results.

PCF's 17, 21, 37 and 59, PT WHITE (USCG WPB) and 160 Regional Force (RF) and Popular Force (PF) troops conducted a Sea Lords mission on 7 November about 8 miles northwest of Phu Vinh (XS 426 113). The troops were inserted at several points on a small island in the Co Chien River for sweeps. The "Swift" boats then set up a blockade of the island and searched all sampan traffic. On completion of the sweep the troops were extracted without incident. There were no friendly casualties and six VC were killed, one wounded and three captured. In addition 14 VC suspects were detained. There were two bunkers destroyed and four grenades and several documents captured.

PCF's 17, 37 and 59 entered the Rach Eo Lon about 15 miles east of Tra Vinh (XR 760 932) taking targets of opportunity under fire on the morning of 11 November. All units beached and destroyed various bunkers and structures near the river bank and fired 81mm fire into the surrounding area. As the units proceeded out of the canal, PCF 17 was hit by a B-40 or B-41 rocket above the water line. The rocket penetrated through the port engine and slightly damaged the starboard engine. One VNN crewman was thrown into the water and was picked up by PCF 37. While PCF 17 exited the canal the other "Swift" boats saturated the ambush site with heavy suppressive fire. There were five structures, six bunkers and two sampans destroyed in the operation. One VNN crewman was slightly wounded and enemy casualties are unknown.

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On 21 November, PCF's 24, 25, 53 and 63 and Coastal Group 36 junks inserted 100 troops from Long Phu District in four positions on Cu Lao Dung Island about 10 miles east of Soc Trang (XR 247 681). Following the insertion the "Swift" boats acted as a blocking force. Two OV-10's provided overhead cover and took designated targets under fire resulting in five large secondary explosions. The PCF's destroyed five motorized sampans, and the troops destroyed one large weapons cache. There was one U.S. sailor slightly wounded and enemy casualties are unknown.

On 26 November, PCF's 25, 102, 54 and 32, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team 35, RAC unit, three OV-10's and RF troops from Phong Dinh conducted a Sea Lords mission in a canal about 10 miles southeast of Can Tho (XR 014 903). The troops were inserted for a sweep of the area while the "Swift" boats took targets of opportunity under fire. The EOD team set charges in large multi-reinforced offensive bunkers and destroyed one large log barricade extending across the canal. The PCF's proceeded up the canal till shallow water forced them to turn around. While turning around, three small mines in trees exploded without causing any damage. The OV-10's providing cover placed strikes in the area of the mining. The troops were extracted and all units exited the canal without further incident. There were three VC killed and no friendly casualties. Destroyed in the operation were 20 structures, 21 sampans, 8 large multi-reinforced bunkers and one large log underwater barricade. In addition, 25 structures were heavily damaged.

A Sea Lords mission was conducted on 26 November about 10 miles east of Bac Lieu (WR 953 340). PCF's 63 and 24 inserted 50 Regional Force troops.

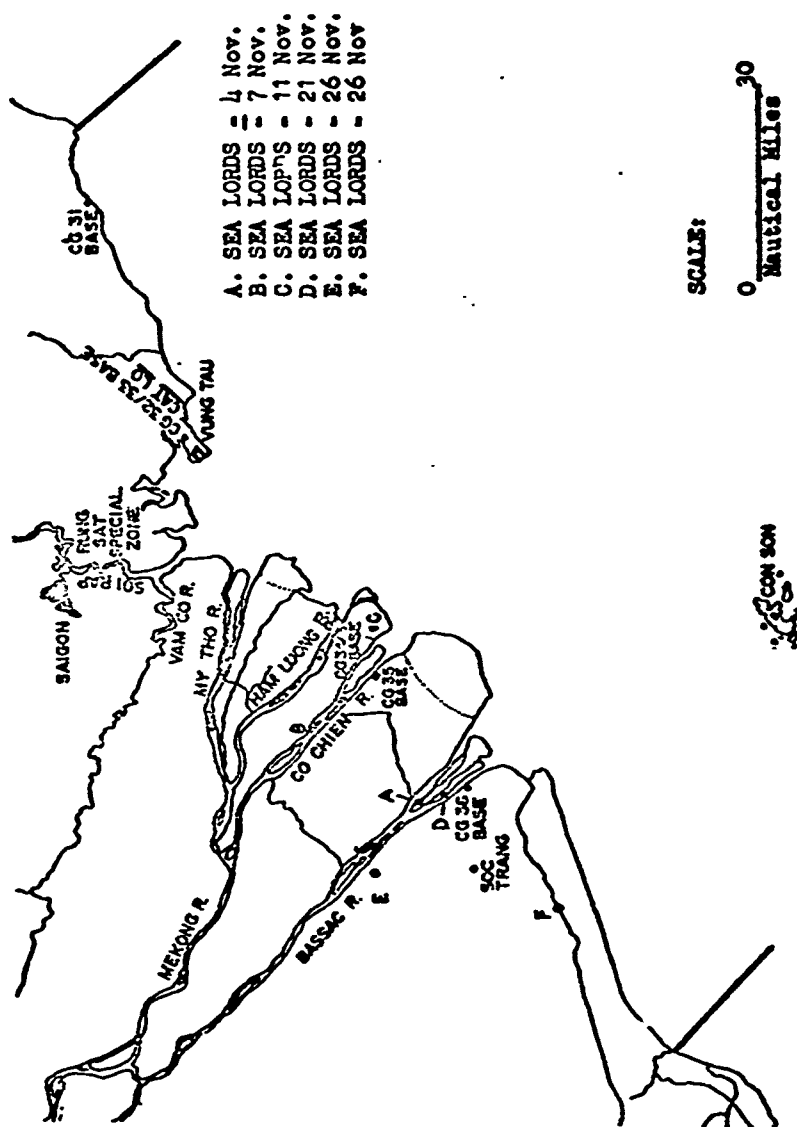
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and during the insertion contact was made with the enemy. PCF 24 extracted five RF troops that had been wounded by exploding mines. The PT MARONE (USCG WFB) picked up additional RF troops and inserted them along the canal and then fired intense 81mm mortar fire on suspected VC supply and staging areas while the "Swift" boats set up a blocking force. At noon both PCF's picked up an additional 130 RF troops and inserted them at various locations along the canal. At 1500H all the troops were extracted without further incident. There was one VC killed and one VCI female courier captured with two kilos of documents. There were 10 structures and five sampans destroyed and two large structures damaged. The troops reported the destruction of many VC tunnels and bunker complexes and dismantled or destroyed numerous punji stakes and booby traps. There were no U.S. casualties.

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SEA LORDS - MARKET TIME RAIDERS  
OPERATIONS IN THE THIRD COASTAL ZONE



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Operation Ready Deck

Operation Ready Deck, which was designated a SEA LORDS Operation on 15 October, completed its first full month of interdicting enemy lines of communication on the Saigon River from Phu Cuong northwest and upstream to Tri Tam (XT 803 140 to XT 480 470) and also on the Thi Tinh River that joins the Saigon River five miles upstream from Phu Cuong (XT 755 205).

At the beginning of the month, River Division 593 was rotated to Phu Cuong in order to relieve River Division 571 and to assume the task organization designator TU 194.6.2. River Division 571 which had operated on the upper Saigon since 11 August returned to Nha Be and assumed TU 116.9.1. With RIVDIV 571 and RIVDIV 531, TU 194.6.2, as the units of TG 194.6, there were 20 PBR's directly under the command of the Upper Saigon Interdiction Group Commander CTG 194.6. Other forces operating in the tactical area included VNN RAG 24, elements of the 1st Infantry Division, USA, ski boat units of the 2nd Infantry Division, USA, 5th ARVN Division forces, and RF/PF units.

The continued success of the Ready Deck operation, as reflected in the statistics for November, was indicative of the constant pressure that has been maintained on the enemy forces in the area. The night waterborne guard-post tactic that is frequently employed by the USN PBR's and the Army ski barges was again the most fruitful in November. From 1-10 November, PBR's successfully interdicted large numbers of VC attempting to swim across the river under the cover of darkness. The five significant incidents that were recorded during this period all took place between NS grid lines XT 600 to 690. In all five cases, miscellaneous weapons, supplies, and documents were

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recovered from the hapless enemy swimmers. Since all the incidents were similarly carried out, a statistical summary of them is given followed by a narrative of one that occurred on the morning of 2 November.<sup>1</sup>

<u>DATE/TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>PATROL OFFICER</u>	<u>PBR'S INVOLVED</u>	<u>TU</u>	<u>ENEMY KIA</u>
020235	XT 644 315	LT McGinley	105, 117	194.6.1	10
021955	XT 611 323	LTJG Host	101, 103	194.6.1	5
042330	XT 687 222	QMC Johnson	761, 840, 752	194.6.2	10
081935	XT 604 335	RDC Chester	754, 843	194.6.2	7
100235	XT 600 320	RDC Chester	754, 845	194.6.2	6

On the evening of 1 November, LT McGinley, the patrol officer, positioned his two units, PBR's 105 and 117, in a night waterborne guardpost thirteen miles northwest of Phu Cuong on the Saigon River (XT 644 315). The two PBR's had been silently watching the river and river banks when one of the sailors spotted approximately 13 to 15 VC preparing to enter the river for a south to north crossing. Poised for action, the two PBR's held their fire until ten swimmers were in the water from nearly one side of the river to the other. The PBR's broke the WEGP and took both banks and the swimmers under fire. No return fire was received. Artillery from the 1st Infantry Division, USA, was called into the area. With illumination provided by the Army artillery, the PBR's were able to search the area and find ten VC dead and eight packs, six of which they were able to recover. After the PBR's had completed their search, they cleared to the north and spotted additional artillery fire. When all firing had ceased, the PBR's reset the WEGP and resumed their vigil.

<sup>1</sup>Incidents identified on the following map by DTG

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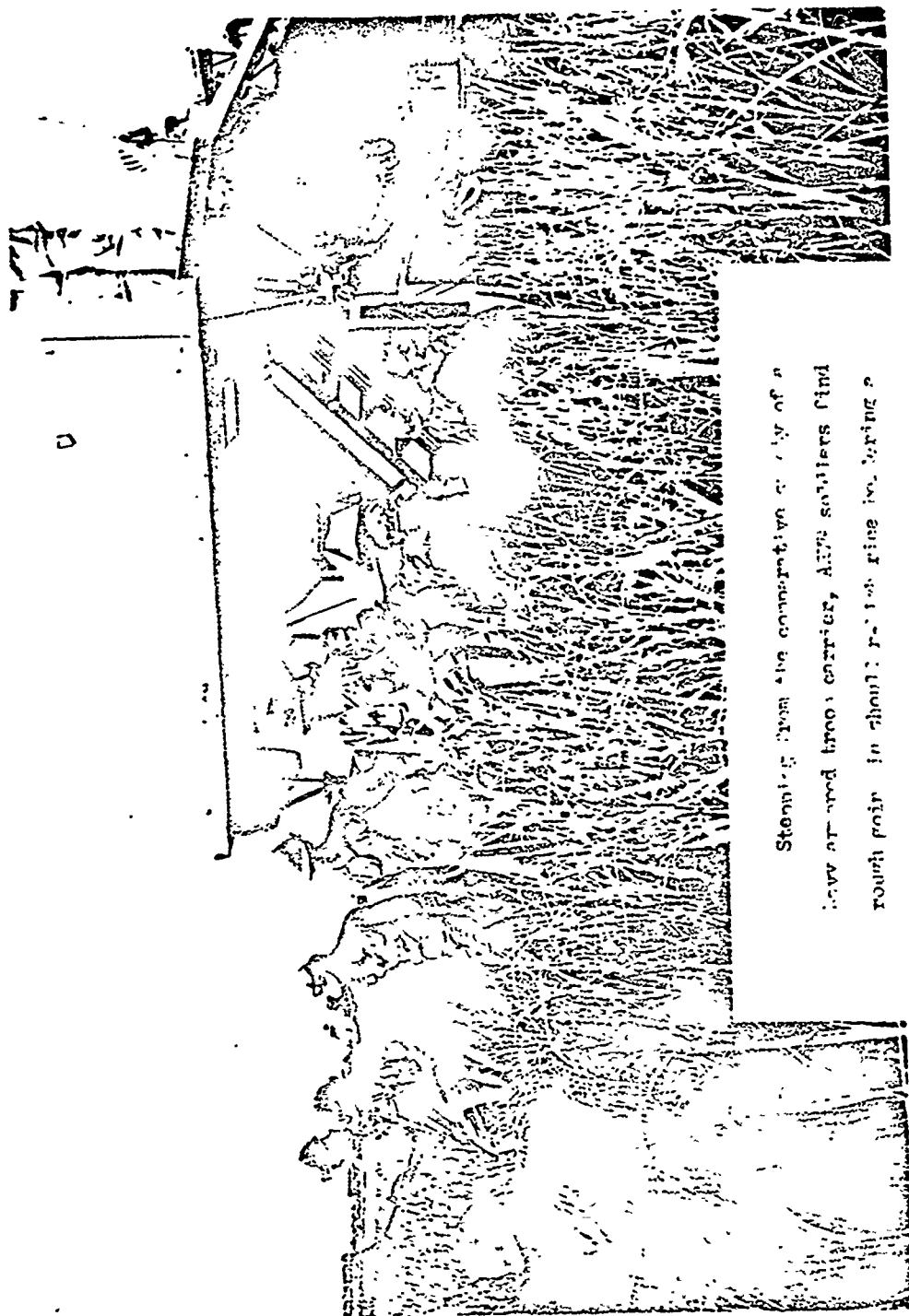


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Later in the month, on 18 November, ENS Hunter, with two PBR's numbers 755 and 841, had established a WGP on the Saigon River ten miles northwest of Phu Cuong (XT 673 250). In the stillness of the early morning hours, the cover boat heard voices on the west bank. Then they observed a makeshift raft with four people aboard moving directly across the river from west to east. The two PBR's broke ambush and took the raft under fire. One person was spotted on the banks and fired upon as he evaded. Two VC were killed and possibly a third one. Two VC were captured including one female. Their possessions, some of which were retrieved, included personal items, clothing, one U. S. grenade, and approximately one half pound of documents. The POW's were interrogated by NILO Lam Son and turned over to the 5th ARVN Division for further questioning.

Seven miles northwest of Phu Cuong on the Saigon River (XT 695 215) on 19 November, LTJG Sullivan, the patrol officer, and two PBR's, 755 and 841, observed two people approaching the boats from the west bank. The PBR's took the VC under fire, and almost simultaneously, an armed enemy hand grenade landed in the stern of one boat. One of the sailors courageously picked up the grenade and threw it out of the boat. One VC was killed and another one was probably killed in the action.

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Stepping from the concrete to a  
low at road track carrier, A170 soldiers find  
rough fair in about 10-15 min in being a  
river.

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Song Ong Doc

As November ended there were 31 river craft, one LST, and two Seawolves assigned to the Song Ong Doc "Breezy Cove" operation:

USS GARRETT COUNTY (LST-786)

10 PBR's and 2 EW's - RIVDIV 572

8 ATC's, 2 ASPB's, and 1 MON. - RAD 131

2 ATC's, 3 ASPB's, and 1 Mon. - RAD 152

2 UH-1B's - HAL 3, Det 6

1 LSSC, 1 HSSC - SEAL PLT 3, DET 4

During the month these TG 194.2 units conducted combined operations with subsector PF troops, the 11th RF Boat Company, the VN 5th Marine Battalion (now departed) and the 32nd ARVN. In addition they set numerous WGP's and frequently inserted SEAL/IDNN troops based on available intelligence. The present area of operations for Breezy Cove units extends from the mouth of the Song Ong Doc (VQ 790 982) eastward along that river for a distance of 17½ miles (WR 050 075). Also included in the AO are the Kinh Ba Kheo (VR 888 002 to VQ 890 950) and the Song Dong Gung from where it meets the Kinh Ba Kheo (VQ 890 950) westward to the Gulf of Thailand (VQ 790 920). One KM inland from both banks of waterways is considered part of the AO.

An indication of the success of Breezy Cove forces presented itself during the month when a junk master on the Song Ong Doc volunteered the following information: he had not travelled from Ca Mau to Song Ong Doc (city) for eleven years due to VC tax extortion. He has now begun the trips again because extortion has ceased and the VC have left the river area.

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One of the most significant incidents occurred at the beginning of the month when two PER's and an ASPB were enroute to set a WEGP in the evening on 3 November. At 1942 near a position 17 miles southwest of Ca Mau (VR 899 003) PBR 119 received an estimated four recoilless rifle rounds, immediately lost power, and sank - the crew having been thrown in the water by the R/R hits. PBR-35 fared a little better, but explosions close aboard knocked out her steering and starboard engine forcing her on to the beach at 1944. At 1955 Seawolves placed a strike on enemy positions in the contact area but did not draw any return fire. VN 5th Marines were landed by RAD units at 2037 after a prep fire of the area. The VNMC came into light contact with the VC which was broken by the enemy. Fortunately, in the action no friendly forces were killed. Casualties amounted to 6 USN wounded (2 serious) and one VAN wound .light). The sunken PER was later raised and towed to the GARRET COUNTY where the extensive damage is considered repairable. This action marked the first time the VNMC agreed to operate in support of USN units in contact.

On the 14th of the month, six SEALS, two LDNN's, an agent and an LDNN advisor traveling in a sampan saw flashing lights on the north bank of Dong Cung Lake. The unit blinked a pen light in return, and the lights went out. An insertion was made (VQ 910 963) and the agent, dressed as a VC, hailed a man moving east along a trail and when he attempted to flee shot him. Then two armed VC approached the guard post that had been set up and were taken under fire and killed. After the unit extracted, a Seawolf put in a strike killing three VC and probably killing six others, while taking fire from several positions.

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The SEALs captured 2 Mauser 98's, some ammunition, and a kilo of documents during the mission.

An unfortunate incident occurred at 0530 in the morning on 22 November when two ASPB's in WEGB observed an apparently camouflaged sampan entering the Song Ong Doc from the Rach Cui (WR 048 075). A small light on the sampan appeared to be extinguished as the craft turned onto the river. The sampan was taken under fire and illuminated as it beached on the north bank. One occupant scrambled onto the beach and flanking fire was placed to prevent his escape. The sampan and all occupants were recovered and found to be two children, a teenage girl, and a 50 year old woman. They were immediately taken to Old Song Ong Doc where they were treated by USN and VN corpsmen and dusted off to Can Tho. The woman suffered a traumatic amputation of the left hand, and the 11 year old girl had a compound fracture of the left leg from shrapnel. The other two, a 19 year old girl and a 3 year old boy, had minor shrapnel wounds of the head.

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NAVAL STATISTICAL SUMMARY (AS OF 30 NOVEMBER)

	TRAN HUNG DAO	GLANT SLINGSHOT	BARRIER REEF	BREEZY COVE	SEARCH TURN	READY DECK
START OF OPERATION	21 NOV 68	6 DEC 68	2 JAN 69	28 SEP 69	1 NOV 68	3 JUN 69
FRIFT	150 (27)	387 (35)	35 (6)	10 (6)	127 (23)	36 (6)
ENIFF	117 (21)	644 (22)	40 (0)	21 (6)	69 (10)	38 (1)
UNILATERAL FIRINGS	283 (49)	1199 (80)	115 (16)	43 (25)	206 (32)	137 (21)
MINTINGS	18 (0)	13 (2)	6 (0)	6 (0)	4 (1)	1 (0)
AMMUNITION CACHES & CACHE WT. (TONS)	3 (1) 11.4 (1.5)	239 (23) 136.6 (3.3)	1 (0) 0.4 (0)	0 (0) 0 (0)	14 (1) 11 (.2)	16 (6) 4.0 (1.6)
OTHER CACHES & CACHE WT. (TONS)	0 (0) 0 (0)	21 (4) 380.8 (4.0)	0 (0) 0 (0)	1 (1) 1.2 (1.2)	1 (0) 1 (0)	1 (0) .4 (0)
REPORTS OF ENEMY PLANS TO ATTACK PATROL CRAFT	137 (10)	181 (11)	19 (0)	6 (4)	* *	* *
SAMPANS DESTROYED	241 (80)	289 (3)	117 (55)	56 (44)	260 (30)	128 (1)

4.3 tons munitions and 5.3 tons of other materials were captured during engagements with barrier units

() - Monthly totals

\* - Statistics not available

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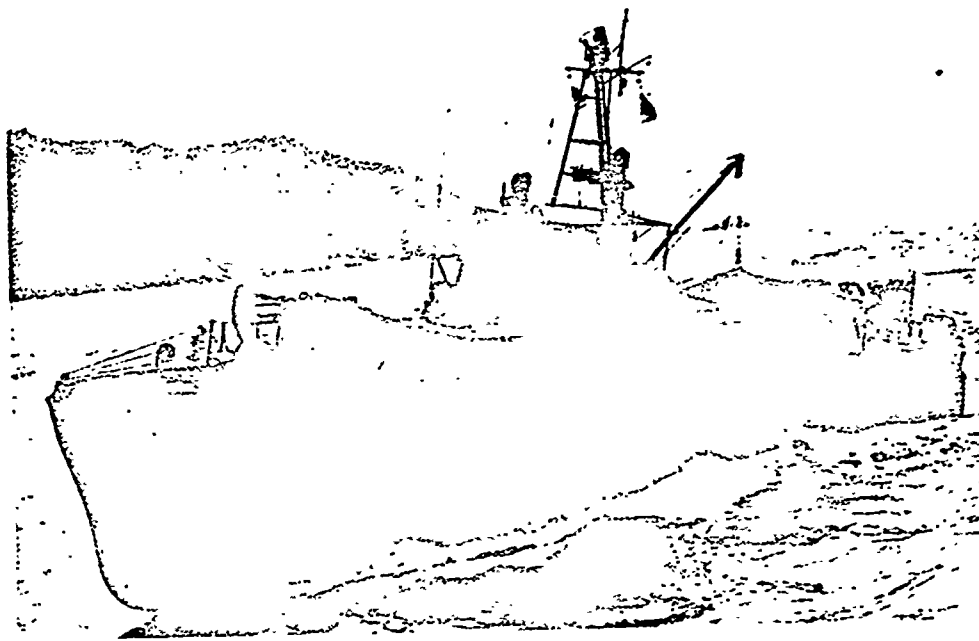
NAVAL STATISTICAL SUMMARY (AS OF 30 NOVEMBER)

	TRAN HUNG DAO	GIANT SLINGSHOT	BARRIER REEF	BREF-Y COVE	SEARCH TURN	READY DECK
ENEMY KIA						
BY USN	176 (47)	916 (43)	55 (4)	31 (16)	175 (40)	263 (55)
BY VNN	30 (5)	113 (12)	29 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (0)
BY OTHER	220 (5)	870 (20)	104 (0)	0 (0)	40 (3)	228 (4)
ENEMY CIA						
BY USN	7 (0)	23 (1)	14 (0)	15 (10)	0 (0)	13 (2)
BY VNN	1 (0)	7 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
BY OTHER	18 (0)	202 (5)	31 (0)	4 (4)	25 (0)	106 (0)
FRIENDLY KIA						
USN	10 (5)	28 (0)	5 (0)	1 (0)	14 (2)	5 (0)
VNN	9 (1)	13 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
OTHER	17 (3)	107 (1)	15 (0)	2 (0)	19 (1)	19 (0)
FRIENDLY WIA						
USN	75 (37)	454 (2)	41 (0)	46 (12)	60 (10)	29 (2)
VNN	60 (6)	103 (6)	11 (0)	7 (1)	4 (2)	15 (0)
OTHER	124 (12)	601 (6)	79 (0)	3 (0)	92 (8)	79 (0)
KILL RATIO						
USN	17.6:1	32.7:1	11.2:1	31:1	12.5:1	52.6:1
VNN	3.3:1	8.7:1	29:1	-	0	3:1
OTHER	12.9:1	8.1:1	6.9:1	0:2	2.1:1	12:1

( ) - Monthly totals

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On a recent patrol off the coast of Vietnam, U. S. Coast Guard cutter Point Arden runs into heavy seas while maintaining coastal surveillance as part of "Operation Market Time."

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COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE SUMMARY

Routine operations continued for Market Time and Stable Door forces during November. Task Force 115 surveillance units detected a total of 53,327 craft in their patrol areas along the coast and in the harbors of the Republic of Vietnam. Bad weather and choppy seas in the First and Second Coastal Zones accounted for this low number of detections. A total of 9,304 craft were inspected and another 8,000 were boarded. As a result of these checks, 92 craft and 291 persons were detained for lack of or faulty identification, violation of restricted areas, possession of contraband, and other suspicious activity. There were 58 Viet Cong suspects detained. In the Game Warden area of operations in the lower Bassac and Co Chien Rivers, the "swift" boats detected 7,666 watercraft, inspecting 3,015 and boarding 2,991. There were six craft and 11 persons detained and two craft attempted to evade.

There were no known large scale infiltration of men or supplies attempted during November. Enemy initiated activity continued at the relative low level of the previous four months. Naval gunfire and blocking patrols were provided in support of friendly ground operations along the coast and in the rivers and canals. Fourteen U.S. Navy men were wounded while enemy losses to the naval gunfire of Market Time came to 67 confirmed killed plus 28 probably killed and 14 wounded.

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First Coastal Zone

First Coastal Zone patrols carried out approximately 75 naval gunfire support and Sea Tiger missions during November with only 14 reporting no gun damage assessment due to darkness, heavy foliage, or no troops available to sweep the area. The mission of TG 115.1 included the interdiction of NVA/VC and their supplies on the inland waterways of the First Corps Tactical Zone (ICTZ). Operations include patrolling, intrusions, raids, and participation in joint/combined operations with Free World Military Assistance, U.S. and RVN forces. On 9 November, eight PBR's from CTF Clearwater were added to the southern ICTZ surveillance group which has extended the navigable rivers and waterways in which the group can operate.

The PBR's, due to their shallow draft, operated routinely from Danang, south on the Vien Dien River, west from Hoi An and the Cau Lau/Dien Binh/ Ky Lam/Thu Bon Rivers to liberty bridge, and south on the Truong Diang to approximately BT 220 450. Operations were also conducted on the Ba Ren River and tributaries surrounding Go Noi Island.

Surveillance operations in the First Coastal Zone were severely hampered during November due to adverse weather, forcing the "swift" boats to take refuge during most of the month. There were only 2,863 detections of watercraft during the month as compared to 7,224 for October and 13,475 in September. Surveillance results remained high as over 70% of those detected were either inspected or boarded. There were 1,042 inspections and 1,153 boardings resulting in the detention of 36 personnel for lack of or faulty identification papers, draft dodgers,

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and restricted zone violators. There was only one VC suspect detained during the month.

On the afternoon of 1 November, the USCGC SEBAGO (WMEC 42) conducted a gunfire support mission on a suspected Viet Cong storage area about nine miles south east of Quang Nga (BS 750 632). The mission was requested by the cutter and cleared by the 2nd ARVN Division. The five inch guns destroyed 15 structures, three sampans and two bunkers and damaged nine structures and three bunkers. There was one Viet Cong killed and no friendly casualties.

The SEBAGO fired on another VC storage area on the morning of 2 November about two miles north of the above mission (BS 750 640). The cutter again scored heavily against the enemy, destroying 10 structures and five bunkers and damaging 12 structures and three bunkers. There were also three large secondary fires ignited.

A Vietnamese Navy sweep/security team and Duffel Bag team were inserted by units of Coastal Group 14 (CG 14) and River Assault Group 32 (RAG-32) on 4 November in a Sea Tiger mission about 16 miles south of Danang (BS 145 528). PCF's 15 and 101 and helo gunships stoodby for support while the VNN troops swept the area and provided ground security. The Duffel Bag team successfully implanted one sensor string. Additional sensors were not implanted due to inability to obtain a successful readout at the Hoi An tactical operations center. During the operation, three uniformed VC were sighted by the PCF's and taken under fire by the helo gunships. The ground forces were then extracted without further incident. After all units had cleared the area, the helo gunships returned and uniformed VC were again sighted and taken under fire. A bunker complex spotted during the ground sweep

was also taken under fire. Results of the Sea Tiger mission were 12 bunkers and five structures destroyed and one large secondary explosion. There were eight VC killed (3 body count, 5 probable) and no friendly casualties.

The USCGC TANEY (WHEC-37) responding to a request for destructive fire by the U.S. Americal Division, destroyed 17 structures and two bunkers and heavily damaged 21 structures. In addition, a large quantity of rice drying in baskets was destroyed. The action took place on the morning of 8 November about 20 miles southeast of Chu Lai (BS 699 954).

On 11 November, Sea Tiger units consisting of PCF's 69 and 80, PBR's 47, 59, 67, 91, and 131, Coastal Group 14, helo gunships, and four companies of RF troops participated in a joint Free World Military Assistance Force (FWMAF) operation about six miles south of Hoi An (BT 175 484). Coastal Group 14 units, the PBR's and PCF's inserted the RF troops at various locations along the Song Truong and Song Ba Ren for sweeps. The waterborne units remained in the waterways throughout the day supporting the ground forces. Numerous uniformed Viet Cong were sighted during the operation and taken under fire. The helo gunships were continually utilized for direct fire support and air coordination. The operation resulted in 12 bunkers destroyed. There were 17 Viet Cong killed, seven by the helo gunships, and one Viet Cong wounded. There were no friendly casualties.

PER's 67, 91, and 131 conducted a joint cordon and search operation with RF/PF troops on the afternoon of 12 November on the Ba Ren River about four miles southwest of Hoi An (BT 115 512). As the PER's entered

the area to coordinate the movement of the RF/PF troops, several VC were sighted near bunkers. The PBR's turned around to make a reconnaissance of the area when an enemy initiated fire fight (ENIFF) ensued. A B-40 rocket hit PBR 131 on the forward coxswain flat ceiling, port side, glancing up through the canopy and radome. The boat captain ABM1 Jackson was critically wounded, the forward gunner SN Mabry was seriously wounded and three VNN received minor wounds. PBR 67 was hit by automatic weapons fire, however, there were no personnel casualties and only minor damage to the PBR. The PBR's and helo gunships placed heavy saturation fire into the area of the ENIFF. The wounded were MEDEVACED by a helo gunship and the Sea Tiger mission was terminated without further incident. There were six Viet Cong killed in the operation.

On the afternoon of 13 November, Sea Tiger units, consisting of PCF'S 13 and 69, and Coastal Group-14, provided support for Regional Forces (RF) ground troops conducting sweeps along the north bank of Song Ba Ren about 4 miles south of Hoi An (BT 135 510). The troops were inserted and extracted at various locations along the river by skimmers, and during the numerous transits, sporadic enemy sniper fire was received and suppressed. The troops were extracted at 1830H without further incident. There were six Viet Cong killed and two Viet Cong captured. There were no friendly casualties.

PCF's 69 and 80 while on normal Sea Tiger patrol on the Cua Dai and Truong Giang Rivers (BT 175 542/173 538) received 11 Hoi Chanhs on 20 November. One male with a rifle at sling arms and arms raised above

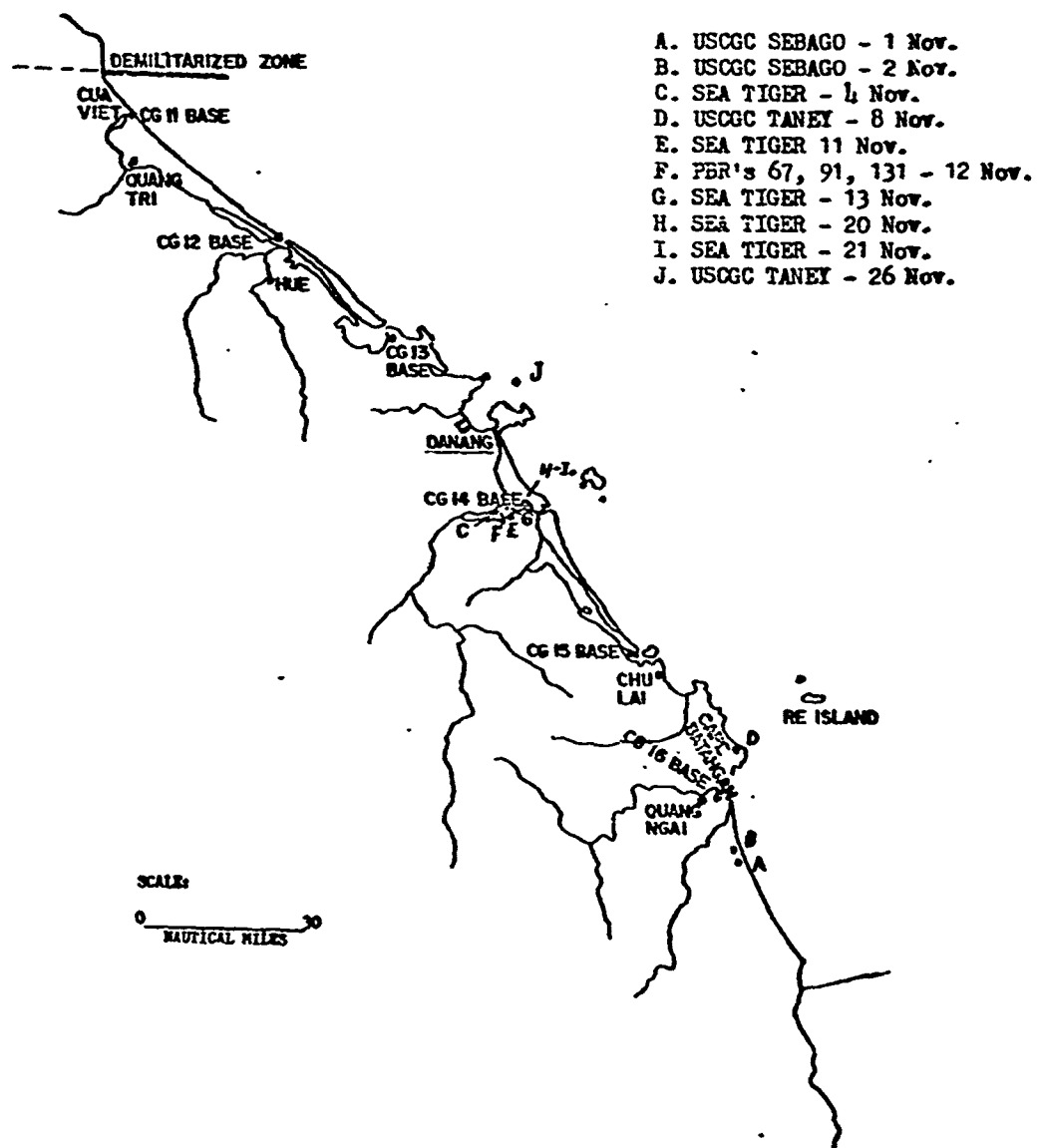
his head was sighted on the river bank. PCF 69 stood by for support in the event of an ambush while PCF 80 proceeded to the beach. Just prior to beaching, 10 additional personnel filed out onto the open beach and all personnel were taken aboard without incident. The nine males and two females ralliers were turned over to the Naval Intelligence Liaison Officer (NILO) at Hoi An. Preliminary interrogation indicated that all personnel were between the ages of 14 and 36 years of age, and were members of a hamlet VC guerilla force from Xuyen Tho village with two months to one year participation.

On 21 November, PCF's 69 and 80, while on a Sea Tiger patrol, sighted three young male ralliers in the same area as the previous day. The Hoi Chanh were taken aboard without incident and turned over to the Quang Nam Sector. Preliminary questioning indicated that two of the ralliers had been associated with the VC information cadre, the other as a VC platoon leader from the Cam Thanh Island area.

The Panamanian cargo vessel GOLDEN MOUNTAIN in a distress report requested assistance from any American ship on 26 November. The GOLDEN MOUNTAIN reported poor buoyancy and decreasing freeboard due to leaks in the deck. The USCGC TANEY (WHEC 37) was directed to the scene and assumed the on scene commander. The TANEY and GOLDEN MOUNTAIN proceeded toward Danang at two knots. At 0800H on the 27th the GOLDEN MOUNTAIN went dead in the water with an engine casualty. The TANEY took the GOLDEN MOUNTAIN in tow and requested assistance. The USS RECLAIMER (ARS-42) was directed to the scene and took the cargo ship in tow and arrived at Danang at 1330H on 28 November for necessary repairs.

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OPERATIONS IN THE FIRST COASTAL ZONE



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Second Coastal Zone

Weather in the Second Coastal Zone was a major factor in the more than 15,000 less detections of craft than during October. In addition, seven patrol stations, areas 3C, 3D, 3E, 3F, 3G, 3H, and 3I, were turned over to the Vietnamese Navy during November. The Coastal Surveillance Center at Qui Nhon was also turned over to the Vietnamese Navy on 5 November. These stations were patrolled by the 13 PCF's that were turned over to the VNN on 31 October. There were 4,321 detections, 2,240 inspections and 809 boardings of craft during November resulting in the detention of 142 persons. The reasons for detainment were possession of contraband, curfew violators, lack of or faulty identification papers, draft dodgers, and restricted zone violators. Of those detained, 46 were Viet Cong suspects.

There were approximately 30 naval gunfire support missions conducted during the month, 70 less than during October with only a minimum amount of damage being inflicted on the enemy.

On 4 November, the PT GRACE (USCG WPB) sighted a junk PT 459 adrift about two miles south of Phan Thiet (AN 8205) with four persons on board. The junk was enroute to Phan Thiet when engine trouble developed. The junk was taken in tow and turned over to Coastal Group 28.

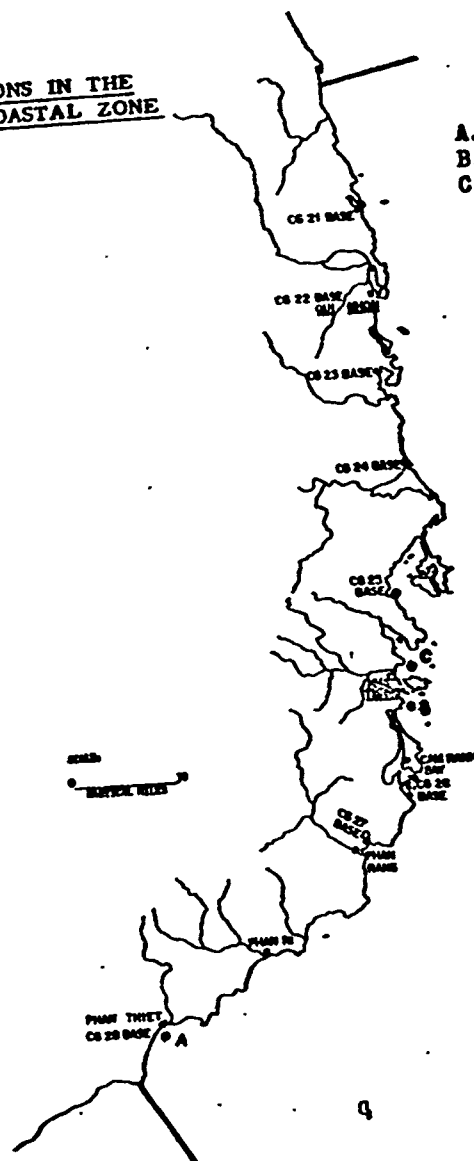
On the night of 13 November, PCF 90 collided with an unlighted 12 foot Vietnamese sampan about three miles southeast of Nha Trang (CP 11 48). There were three boys on board, ages 9, 10, and 12. The 9 year old boy was recovered in good health. LCPL 46 and skimmers assisted in the

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OPERATIONS IN THE  
SECOND COASTAL ZONE

- A. PT GRACE - 4 Nov.
- B. PCF 90 - 13 Nov.
- C. PCF 74 - 15 Nov.



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search for the two missing boys with negative results. A subsequent investigation of PCF 90's hull revealed the 12 year old boy entangled in the screws along with an anchor and assorted nets and line.

PCF 74, while acting as a blocking force on 15 November, two miles east of Nha Trang (CPO 080 531), picked up a swimmer in the water. The swimmer had no papers and claimed to have been thrown overboard from a junk. On resumption of patrol, a junk with five men on board was stopped, boarded, and searched. The swimmer claimed that one man on the junk was his brother. However, all five men denied knowing the swimmer. None of the five men had proper identification papers, and all were turned over to the Second Coastal Zone Intelligence Officer for disposition.

#### Third Coastal Zone

Indigenous coastal traffic remained at about the same level as in October as good weather prevailed throughout the month of November. There were 12,183 craft detected, 4,289 inspections, and 4,089 boardings recorded during the month resulting in the detention of 36 persons for lack of or faulty identification papers, possession of contraband, and restricted zone violators. In the Game Warden area of operation in the lower Eassac and Co Chien Rivers, the "swift" boats detected 7,666 water craft. Of these 3,015 were inspected and 2,991 were boarded resulting in six craft and 11 persons being detained. There were two incidents of evading craft reported on the Co Chien River.

There were approximately 140 naval gunfire support missions conducted

during November in response to requests for urgent gunfire support, targets of opportunity, H and I, or in preplanned river and canal incursions. This was about 60 missions less than the previous month as the tempo of operations have slowed and the enemy avoided contact where and when ever possible.

On the night of 1 November a U.S. Army OH-6A helicopter was reported down about two miles southwest of Sa Dec (WS 850 373). PCF's 37, 59, and 102 proceeded to search the area with PCF 102 locating the helo partially submerged at the waters edge. The three U.S. occupants were dead. The PCF's stood by to assist in the removal of the bodies and to provide security for the ordnance remaining on board the helo. A Vietnamese stated that the helo was burning at the time of the crash. PCF 59 remained on the scene until relieved by U.S. Army personnel.

The PT GREY (USCG WPB) while on normal Market Time patrol on November spotted six people in the water about 13 miles east of Ham Tan (ZS 271 835). All six were taken aboard the PT GREY and on interrogation they stated their fishing junk had sunk at about 0200H.

The PT CYPRESS (USCG WPB) fired a gunfire support mission on VC structures about 25 miles northeast of Soc Trang (XR 298 635) on 8 November. The mission had sector clearance and resulted in three structures destroyed, four structures damaged, and one large secondary explosion.

A squad of Regional Forces troops were ambushed by a VC company estimated at 100 troops with small arms, automatic weapons, and B-40

rockets on the morning of 9 November, about 13 miles southeast of Can Tho (XR 034 910). PCF's 28 and 63 embarked 65 RF troops and inserted them along the canal and then stood by for support. The PCF's were detached at 1530H and at that time the ground forces had not made contact with the enemy. As a result of the ambush, the RF force suffered six killed, four wounded and one missing in addition to losing seven M-16's, one M-60, and one M-79. Enemy casualties are unknown.

In a special operation on the morning of 14 November, PCF's 25 and 53 inserted troops along the Bassac River about 20 miles southeast of Can Tho (XR 183 757). The "swift" boats stood by for gunfire support, and at 0515H extracted the troops without incident. The ground forces killed three VC and captured one mauser weapon. There were no friendly casualties.

PCF 28 observed an RF outpost about 18 miles southwest of Tra Vinh (XR 347 669) come under small arms and automatic weapons fire at 2225H, 17 November. The "swift" boat placed accurate 81mm fire support in the area, and at 2355H, the enemy broke contact. There were two VC killed and one AK-47 rifle captured. RF troop casualties are unknown.

The PT CYPRESS (USCG WPB) conducted small boat covert surveillance on 22 November about 20 miles south of Phu Vinh (XR 575 554). Eight males with fish nets were sighted, and all attempted to evade over the sand dune. The small boat took the evaders under fire, killing two VC.

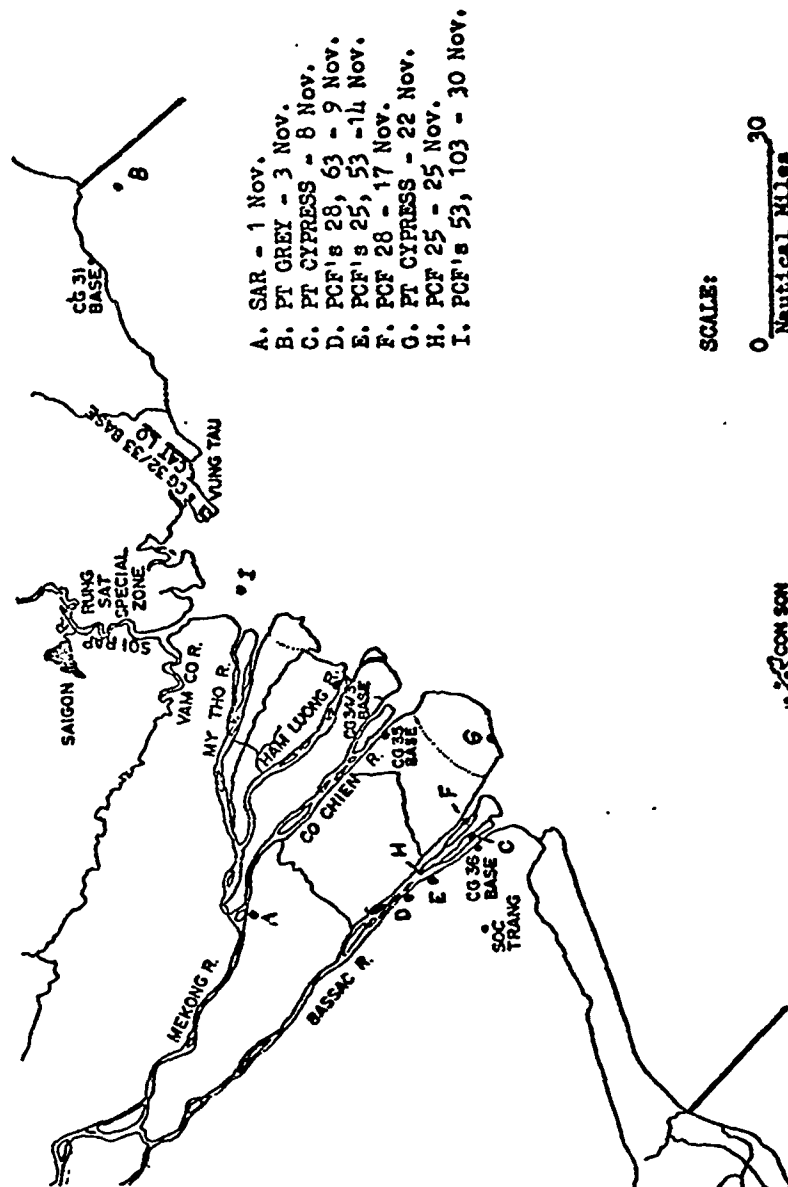
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PCF 25, while on normal Market Time patrol on the night of 25 November, sighted a small unlighted sampan about 10 miles north of Soc Trang (XR 200 795). When the sampan was illuminated, three persons jumped over the side and were taken under fire. One U.S. sailor fell overboard while throwing concussion grenades and was recovered after the strong current had carried him approximately 150 yards. The "swift" boat recovered numerous documents, 100 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, and several items of personal clothing before the sampan sunk. There were three VC killed and no friendly casualties. The documents indicated that one of the VC killed was a doctor.

At 1120H on 30 November, the Alaska Barge and Transport Company office at Vung Tau reported that the civilian tug R PACE with three barges was sinking in the vicinity of channel marker number 2 in the Cua Tieu River (YS 080 300) about 12 miles southwest of Vung Tau. PCF's 53 and 103 enroute to Binh Tuy overheard the tug's SOS transmission and proceeded to the scene. The tug was sighted at 1155H and PCF 103 assumed the position of On-scene Commander. At 1216H, the PCF evacuated all 11 crewmembers. Two MSTS tugs had been dispatched to the scene, and at 1245H the R PACE tug master was transferred to the MSTS salvage tug ANN B. The tug master stated that the R PACE was badly holed when she went aground.

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# OPERATIONS IN THE THIRD COASTAL ZONE



#### Operation Market Time

There were 542 naval gunfire, SEA LORDS, Sea Fleet, and Sea Tiger missions conducted during November, approximately 60 less than in October. Gun damage assessment on these missions was 35.6 percent compared to the 40.6 percent the previous month and the high of 42.3 percent recorded in May 1969. Results of these missions were:

95 Viet Cong killed (67 body count, 28 probable).

14 Viet Cong wounded.

32 Viet Cong captured.

182 Junks/Sampans destroyed.

7 Junks/Sampans damaged.

282 Structures/Bunkers destroyed.

132 Structure/Bunkers damaged.

There were six incidents of evading craft and personnel reported during the month and taken under fire resulting in 13 sampans destroyed, two sampans damaged, and one Viet Cong killed, one wounded and three captured.

Surveillance operations resulted in the detection of 17,128 wood craft. Of these, 6,492 were inspected and 5,536 were boarded. Detection of steel hulled vessels in Market Time areas totaled 282. Of these, 179 were inspected and another six boarded, and all determined to be non-suspicious. This is the lowest number of detections since the inception of Market Time operations, and is contributed to adverse weather in the First and Second Coastal Zones during most of the month.



In addition, seven patrol areas in the Second Coastal Zone were turned over to the Vietnamese Navy in November. This brought the total Market Time areas patrolled by the Vietnamese Navy to 27 stations of the 54 assigned.

In support of Operations SEA LORDS and Sea Float, in the III and IV Corps Tactical Zones, "swift" boats conducted 67 multi-craft missions during November. The results of the missions were not as impressive as in previous months as the enemy continued to avoid contact. The "Swift" boats continued to support the PSYOPS campaign in the lower Ca Mau peninsula. These operations are discussed under Market Time Raiders in the SEA LORDS summary and operation Sea Float summary.

SEAL units attached to Task Force 115 conducted almost daily operations in the IV Corps Tactical Zone in support of Sea Float operations.

A new enemy tactic was employed against the PCF's in the Song Gang Hao during November. Four B-40 rockets were found rigged for remote firing by wire leading into the line. The rocket launchers were fastened to a small raft which was floating in a notch cut into the river bank. The raft was held in place by four small pilings or stakes, and it was free to ride up and down on these pilings with the tide. The elevation on the rocket launchers was thus set to hit a passing boat. This arrangement eliminated the problem of elevation adjustment with tidal change.

On 3 November, LCDR Edwin B. McConville, USN, 622446/1100 relieved LCDR Joseph W. Streuli, USN, 606698/1100 as Commander Coastal Division Thirteen.

The Coastal Surveillance Center at Qui Nhon and the operational control of the seven inshore stations in area 3 were turned over to the Vietnamese Navy on 5 November.

The PT GAMMON (USCG WPB) was decommissioned and turned over to the Vietnamese Navy in a ceremony at the Small Craft Repair Facility, Danang on 11 November. The vessel was renamed the NGUYEN DAO (HQ 703).

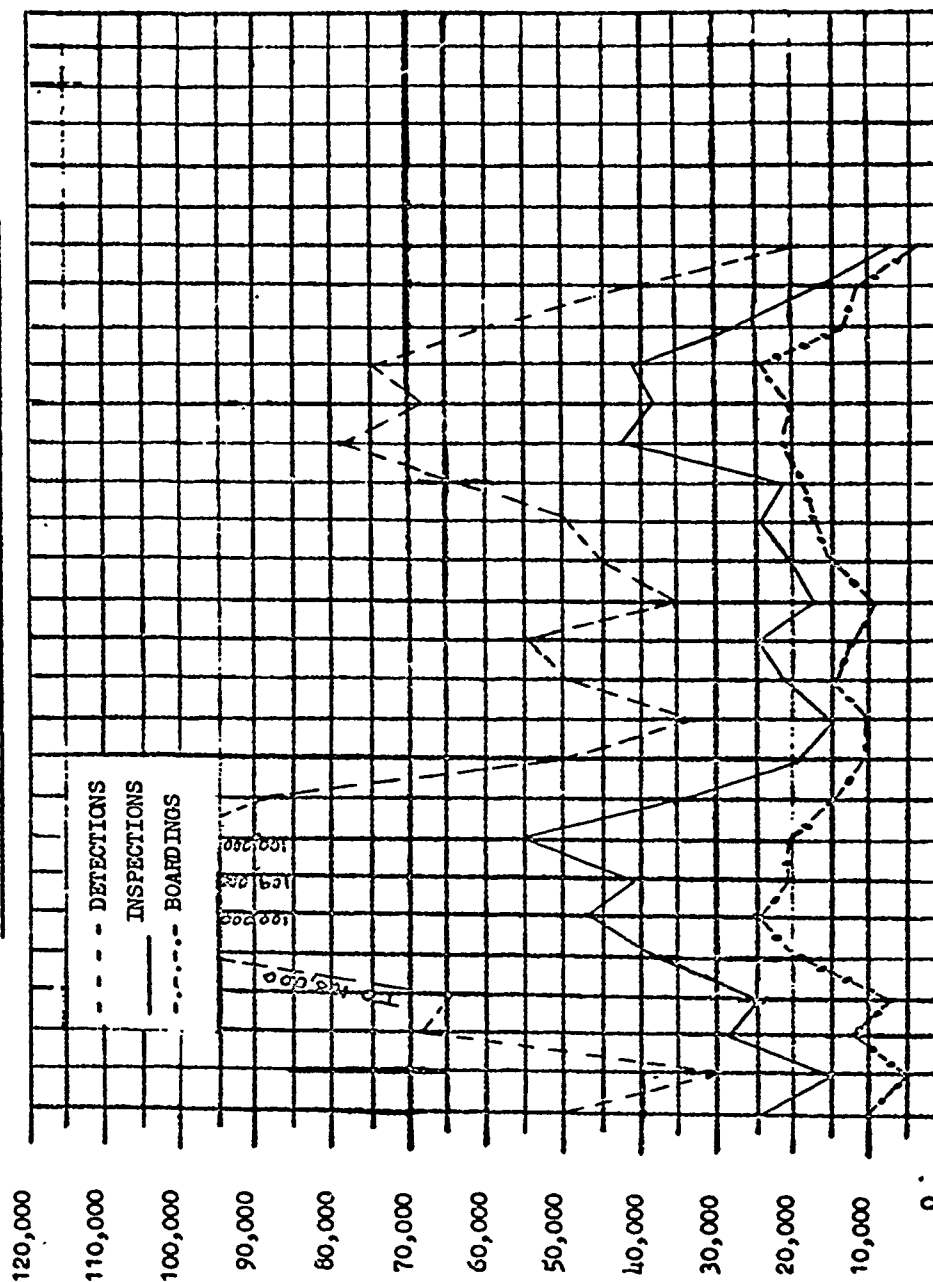
On 17 November the PT COMFORT (USCG WPB) was turned over to the Vietnamese Navy and renamed the DAO THUC (HQ 704).

At 150757H the PT GRACE (USCG WPB) while on normal Market Time patrol sighted a OV-1 (MOHAWK) crash and two parachutes about 19 miles southeast of Phu Vinh (XR 730 700) in the Long Toan Secret Zone. In addition to the pilot, an Army Lieutenant. the 73rd SAC aircraft carried the III Coastal Zone Intelligence Officer, LCDR John George Graf, USN, 181318/6632. At 0800H, OV-10 aircraft were scrambled from Binh Thuy and helo assistance was requested from the Vinh Binh sector Tactical Operations Center. The PT GRACE recovered portions of the aircraft and then entered the canal with OV-10 and helo gunships overhead, to search for the personnel. The canal probe was completed at 1205H with negative results. A Vietnamese boy stated that he saw two Americans captured and agreed to lead troops to the capture point. At 1255H, two ejection seats were located. Troops were inserted at 1635H and, led by the VN boy, found one chute 200 meters from the ejection seats. A helmet and leggings were also recovered by the troops prior to their extraction at 1900H. Emergency beeper signals were heard at various times throughout the day.

Surveillance and blockade operations continued throughout the night of 15-16 November. At 161030H, PSYOPS broadcast were commenced offering a 100,000 piaster reward for return of the prisoners. At 1400 an ARVN battalion was inserted and one of the aircraft engines was located and salvaged. The remainder of the aircraft was destroyed. The troops were extracted prior to darkness. A four unit blocking force with aircraft overhead was maintained throughout the night. Troop search and sweep operations were continued on 17 and 18 November with a blocking force being maintained at night. The search for the pilot and observer of the OV-1 MOHAWK was terminated at 191500H with negative results.

At 1248H on 16 November, Market Time patrol aircraft MESS MAN 702 detected an unidentified SL-4 type trawler at position 7-20N, 105-05E, on course 340 degrees, speed 15 knots. After the trawler was sighted it changed course to 050 degrees. The contact was designated 16F1. The USCGC HAMILTON (WMEC-715) was designated to intercept and identify the contact and to maintain a positive surveillance. The trawler entered CHICOM territorial waters at 0620H on 20 November. Surveillance was discontinued at 0720H on 21 November when radar contact was lost with the trawler at position 19-16.6N and 110-41.4E.

DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY MARKET TIME UNITS



JAN FEB MR AP MAY JN JL AG SP OC NV DC JA FB MR AP MY

←----- 1968 -----→ ←----- 1969 -----→ ←----- 1970 -----→

Operation Sea Float/Tran Hung Dao III

There were 55 Sea Float and SEAL missions conducted in November in support of operation Sea Float/Tran Hung Dao III in the lower Ca Mau Peninsula. Assets assigned to Sea Float were 10 PCF's, one PG, one LST, one ASPB, one minitor, three ATC's, and one Zippo. These missions and craft supported SEAL, EOD, and UDT team operations and daily air support was provided by Slicks, Seawolves, and OV-10 aircraft. The following Vietnamese Navy assets and forces were also assigned: two LSM's, one LSSL, two PCF's, Coastal Groups 33, 35, and 36, VNN POLWAR Team, Mobile Strike Team Two, VNN Reaction Force, VNN Biet Hai, RF troops, VNN Rangers, and an RD cadre. The afloat units conducted day and night Psyops patrols along the rivers and canals of the Sea Float operating area, and airborne units continued to provide Psyops missions in those areas inaccessible to the craft. The "swift" boats provided gunfire support, waterborne guard posts, blocking forces and escort services for logistic craft along the Bo De and Cua Lon Rivers and adjacent canals. The Mobile Advance Tactical Support Base and all afloat units conducted nightly H and I fire into known VC base camps and extortion areas.

Land clearing operations commenced for the construction of the coastal group junk and PCF base at Old Nam Can under operation Solid Anchor. There were 31 Seabees assigned during the month and were utilized in the construction of sea huts, the laying of matting for vehicle support, and improving the camp area. An RF company arrived

at Solid Anchor on 4 November from New Nam Can and set up camp on the north shore of the MATSB.

Commander Amphibious Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet, was briefed on operation Sea Float and Solid Anchor and given a tour of the area on 8 November.

Rear Admiral Henry J. Johnson, USN, Officer in Charge Construction, and party inspected the Solid Anchor Base construction on 9 November. Also on 9 November, COL Vuong, An Xuyen Province Chief and accompanied by members of the Vietnamese Senate and lower house toured the MATSB. The visitors thought the operation was very impressive and important, and appeared pleased with the extent to which the area was being reclaimed to GVN control by Sea Float operations.

Admiral Bernard A. Clarey, USN, Vice Chief of Naval Operations, Vice Admiral Ralph L. Shipley, USN, OP-04, Vice Admiral Walter H. Baumberger, USN, Deputy Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet, Vice Admiral E. R. Zumwalt, USN, Commander Naval Forces, Vietnam, and Commodore Tran Van Chon, VNN, Chief of Naval Operations, visited Sea Float on 10 November and were given a tour of the MATSB followed by a briefing by USN and VNN briefing officers. All expressed interest in the general success of operations, diversity of assets assigned, and the increasing Vietnamese participation in all aspects of Sea Float operations. The Province determination to return the Districtal Headquarters to Old Nam Can once the VNN base is completed was viewed as an important consolidation of the progress made since Sea Float operations began.

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On 14 November, Rear Admiral John G. Dillon, USN, Commander Third Naval Construction Brigade visited Sea Float for an inspection of the Solid Anchor base site.

Four PCF's and LSSL 225 established Sea Float Annex EAST at the confluence of the Dam Doi, Cua Lon, and Bo De Rivers on 17 November. The PCF's patrolled the principle waterways playing PSYOPS tapes advising of the availability of a doctor and corpsman, and urging people to visit the LSSL. The first visitors were received on 26 November indicating that PSYOPS were beginning to produce results.

At 0410H on 20 November, the Sea Float Annex located at the confluence of the Cua Lon River and Cau Nhap canal was attacked by the VC. An inspection of the area revealed that eight VC had entered the area via a small canal, positioned six claymore mines in a fan shape 10 meters from the RF quarters and then retreated to firing positions. Four claymores were fired, only one of which detonated, followed by small arms fire. The VC then left the area via sampans. After the attack, five claymores, five hand grenades, and one clip of M-1 ammo were found. There were nine persons wounded, three civilians, and six RF troops.

Commander J.M. White, USN, COMNAVFORV Public Affairs Officer, accompanied AP, UPI, and Newsweek reporters on a 24 November visit to Sea Float for an informal briefing and a tour of the area.

On 25 November, Vice Admiral E.R. Zumwalt, USN, Commanders Tran Van Chen, FNM, and party visited Sea Float, Solid Anchor, and the Sea Float Annex. Discussions on the various areas were held with emphasis

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on logistics, base defense, the Kit Carson Scout program, and progress in the No Fire Zone (NFZ) community. All appeared to be impressed with the continuing progress in the Sea Float area of operations.

A SEAL mission was conducted on 9 November based on information provided by a Hoi Chanh to destroy a VC rice mill and capture four VC district cadre. Eighteen SEALs were inserted by Slick helos about 18 kilometers north of Sea Float (VQ 971 888) and patrolled south about 200 meters when the rice mill was located. Patrolling further south, two VC males were captured near a hootch. Continuing the patrol, a VC store with a table set for 20-30 people was found and two VC females were captured. The district chief's house was located and four VC females and several documents were captured. Seawolves received enemy fire about two kilometers to the south, and took the area under fire. At 1700H. 10 SEALs and the prisoners were extracted via Slicks while the remaining SEALs patrolled north to the rice mill and received small arms fire. Seawolves were called in to suppress the fire. The remaining SEALs were extracted at 1730H and returned to Sea Float without further incident. Destroyed in the operation were three VC hootches, eight 50 gallon drums oil/gasoline, two large motor-driven sampans, 1,000 pounds of rice and the rice mill with a large amount of machinery. There were small amounts of assorted ammunition and four kilos of documents captured. There were no friendly casualties and eight VC were captured, six females and two males.

On the afternoon of 13 November, PCF's 55, 94, and 35 and VNN PCF 09 with an EOD team, a Psyops team and a 10 member VNN reaction



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Force conducted a Psyops patrol along the Rach Cai Ngay about two miles northeast of the Sea Float Annex (WQ 127 736). Psyops broadcasting commenced immediately upon entering the canal. A few minutes later as the "swift" boats passed a large wooden structure used to support a fishing net, the PCF's began receiving small arms fire from the north bank. The boats beached on the opposite bank and suppressed the enemy fire. Seawolf 14, providing aircover, spotted many camouflaged hootches and sampans and took them under fire. The VNN reaction troops were inserted for a sweep of the area and discovered several small hootches about 300 meters from the canal, and retained several documents and hand grenades. Numerous VC signs were noticed in the area, and many punji stakes were uncovered by the low tide. The troops were extracted at 1800H and the PCF's departed the canal without further incident. There were 10 sampans, one structure, 400 pounds of shrimp, 75 pounds of fish, 50 pounds of rice, and two fishnets destroyed. The troops captured 350 pounds of shrimp and fish, two sampans, 100 feet of fishing net, and several documents. There were no friendly casualties, and enemy casualties are unknown.

On 13 November, SEAL team One, Det. Golf, conducted a mission to capture six district level Viet Cong infrastructures. The SEALs, two Kit Carson Scouts, and one guide were inserted by Slick about 16 kilometers southeast of Old Nam Can (WQ 115 672), and after patrolling 200 meters to the northwest located six hootches and took 16 detainees into custody. The hootches were destroyed when the guide identified them as VC. The detainees were extracted via Slick and the SEALs continued their patrol and located a three hootch complex. They detained

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20 personnel. Initial interrogation revealed that they were civilians and desired to go to the Sea Float Annex. The SEALs assisted in loading the persons and their property into sampans, and sent them to the Annex. One of the females was detained after she was identified as the wife of a VC. The SEALs patrolled back to the landing zone and were extracted without incident. There were no friendly casualties and 17 relatives of VC were taken into custody. Nine boats, five sampans, numerous water jugs, 300 pounds of rice and various foods were destroyed, and two kilos of documents were captured. There were 19 civilians relocated to the Sea Float Annex.

River Assault Craft units, consisting of T-4, T-9, Z-2, and M-2 were underway at 0700H, 14 November with VNN Rangers, VNN reaction force, an EOD, and UDT team embarked for a Sea Float mission on the Rach Ong Dinh about 3 miles southeast of Sea Float (WQ 015 637). The rangers were inserted on the east bank and the reaction force on the west bank for a sweep south. Several bunkers with connecting trenches were destroyed. The troops were extracted at 1200H, without making contact with the enemy, and were returned to Sea Float. There were 10 bunkers, two structures, 100 pounds of salt, and two fishnets destroyed.

Two platoons of VNN Rangers were inserted along a canal by ATC 4 on the morning of 18 November about six miles northeast of Sea Float. The troops were divided into five elements and swept generally north and then east. PCF's 11, 27, 40, and 51 and Zippo 2 provided cover. There was no contact made with the enemy, however, several structures were encountered and 15 women and children were detained. The troops were extracted along the Rach Cai Ngay and returned to Sea Float.

The sweep resulted in 15 structures, two bunkers, 13 water cisterns, 1,000 pounds of rice and one fish trap destroyed and two sampans, 75 pounds of shrimp, two VC flags and assorted VC money and documents captured. There were no friendly casualties.

While proceeding east on the Cua Lon River for the Sea Float Annex at 1030H on 28 November, LSSL 225 fired into a suspicious area about 11 miles northeast of Sea Float (WQ 202 719) and initiated an ambush receiving two B-40 rockets, one 3.5 rocket and small arms fire. The LSSL immediately opened fire with all guns and continued slowly eastward making a thorough firing run. At the same time, PCF's 40, 05, and 27 were proceeding north leaving the Bo De River and immediately beached opposite the ambush site, and commenced 81mm fire. Seawolves were scrambled and put strikes into the general vicinity. At noon a landing party was put ashore and they found six B-40 rockets, four triple B-40 launchers and several boobytrapped grenades. PCF's 55 and 06 arrived on the scene and inserted a VNN reaction force which found several spider holes and blood trails. Seawolves inserted EOD and UDT personnel who destroyed booby traps in the area and three bunkers. All personnel were extracted without further incident. Evidence just north of the ambush site suggested that the VC were caught by surprise while setting up a second ambush. Along with the weapons cache, hot food was found indicating the LSSL 225 might have initiated the enemy ambush before the VC were ready. All the weapons were retained. There were no friendly casualties, and enemy casualties are unknown.

# STATISTICAL SECTION

Average number U.S. ships/craft on patrol during month.

	MSO	MSC	WPB	PCF	LST	PG	WHEC
Avg.	1	1	12	35	1	1	3

Average number VNN ships/junks employed during month.

	Sea Force	River Force	Coastal Force
Total	41	305	190

## U.S. Activity

Total Detected	Wood - Day	14,514	Night	2,614	17,410
	Steel - Day	146	Night	136	
Total Inspected	Wood - Day	5,045	Night	1,147	6,371
	Steel - Day	86	Night	93	
Total Boarded	Wood - Day	4,130	Night	372	4,508
	Steel - Day	6	Night	0	

## VNN Activity

Junks Searched	75, 523	Junks Detained	70
Persons Searched	264, 054	Persons Detained	331

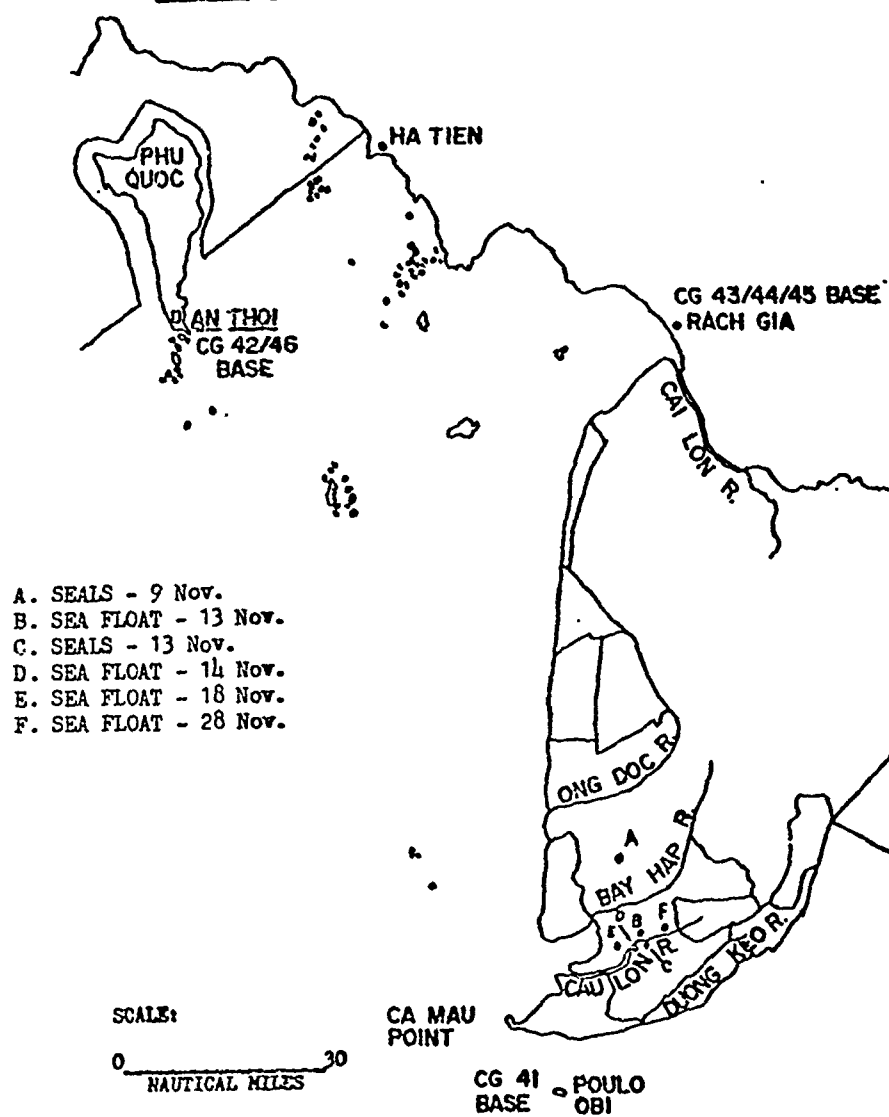
## U.S. Activity

Junks Detained	92
Persons Detained	291

## Stable Door Statistics

Number of Junks Detected	35,917
Number of Inspections	2,933
Number of Boardings	2,458

SEA FLOAT  
OPERATIONS IN THE FOURTH COASTAL ZONE



#### Operation Stable Door

Adverse weather during most of November slowed the Stable Door operations as 35,917 craft were detected. Of these, 2,933 were inspected and another 2,458 were boarded. Patrol units continued to support ground operations with blocking forces and landing reconnaissance patrols.

#### Unit One - Vung Tau

There were eight junks and 31 persons detained during November for improper or no identification or boat registration papers, curfew and restricted zone violators.

On 6 November, YW 126, while getting underway from Naval Support Activity Detachment Cat Lo, lost control and collided with Picket 29, Picket 26, LCPL 52, a Vietnamese junk, and the IUWG-1 pier. The pickets sustained cracked ribs, the Vietnamese junk sank, and there was no apparent damage to LCPL 52. The pier was dislodged and moved approximately 15 feet, bending several pilings and length poles and severing an electrical power cable.

LCPL 33 while on routine patrol on 16 November, boarded a coastal junk (PT 16TTHH) and found approximately 60 tons of unmanifested rice. The owner had no identification papers. The junk, owner and rice were turned over to Coastal Group Thirty Three for disposition.

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The USNS SGT ANDREW MILLER while anchored on 16 November, reported that a napalm bomb in a wooden case had fallen overboard. LCPL 33 conducted a search of the area and was joined by LCPL's 35 and 52 who searched and provided illumination. The bomb was spotted on 17 November by a U.S. Army helicopter and Unit One Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel destroyed the bomb.

Picket 29 stopped a fishing junk (PR 1208NTHH) on 16 November, for the fifth curfew violation. The junk and owner were turned over to the Vietnamese Navy Police for disposition.

Unit Two - Cam Ranh Bay

During November there were eight junks and 10 persons detained for curfew or restricted zone violations, invalid or no registration, and identification papers.

On 2 November, the sentry on Pier 2 reported a floating mine. LCPL 39 and Skimmer 26 were sent to investigate. The duty officer on the scene identified the explosive device as one of two missing, classified firing devices destined for the U.S. Air Force. Unit Two EOD personnel destroyed the device.

The Harbor Master reported on 10 November that an unknown number of barges had broken lose from their anchorage in the outer harbor and were drifting toward Binh Ba Cove. Unit two was requested to send boats to check the barges drift until tugs arrived. Three barges were adrift and LCPL's 23 and 66 attached lines and succeeded in holding them until the tugs arrived and took them in tow.

LCPL 37 stopped and boarded a junk on 20 November for operating in a restricted zone. The junk was running in circles around the SS AMERICAN LEADER, and upon searching two, 100 pound bags of unmanifested rice were discovered. The junk, owner, and rice were turned over to the Vietnamese National Police at the Cam Ranh Bay Village pier.

On 20 November the U.S. Air Force Salvage team from the 559th Tactical Fighter Squadron requested Unit Two's assistance in locating a downed F-4 Phantom jet which went down in the northern sector of the inner harbor about 2030H on 18 November. LCPL's 32 and 39 and Stable Door Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team assisted in the search, and through combined operations located the aircraft about 1505H on 22 November. Unit Two's EOD personnel attached a marker and the LCPL's were secured from the operation.

On 22 November Skimmer 27 made a routine check of a fishing junk off Cam Ranh Bay village and found two persons with expired identification cards and whose names were on the Viet Cong Black list. The persons were detained and turned over to the Military Police for further transfer to the Navy Intelligence Liaison Officer at Cam Ranh Bay.

Unit Two received their semi annual administrative/material inspection on 21 and 22 November. CDR G. H. Overstreet, USN, OFFICER IN CHARGE OF IUWG-1 was the senior inspector and was assisted by personnel from Staff, Unit Four and Naval Support Facility, Cam Ranh Bay.



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On 24 November LCDR W. G. Dyer, USNR, relieved LCDR L.V. Cooper, Jr., USN as OFFICER IN CHARGE OF UNIT TWO. LCDR Cooper was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" for meritorious service.

Unit Three - Qui Nhon

There were only two junks and four persons detained by Unit Three during the month and those for suspected black marketing.

On 4 November, Skimmer 32 and 89 investigated a burning junk in the junk anchorage of Hai Minh village. Inspection revealed that the fire was caused by a new engine installed in the junk.

On 11 November, Sea Cobras operating in the upper harbor observed one sampan with two personnel on board traveling along the southern bank. When the sampan was within six feet of the Sea Cobra's position it was challenged and the occupants surrendered. The Sea Cobras found two AK-47 rifles, 12 Chicm grenades, 6 loaded AK-47 magazines and 100 rounds of AK-47 ammunition in the sampan.

During operations on 15 November, using one of the prisoners captured on 11 November as a guide, the Sea Cobras moved into a Viet Cong base camp. As the trail came into the camp, the prisoner tried to escape and was killed. The base camp consisted of two bunkers 50 meters apart and 100 meters from the trail. The team proceeded northwest where one VC was spotted but he evaded into the elephant grass. An air strike was called in on the base camp after the team departed with negative results.

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While on routine patrol on 15 November, LCPL 42 stopped a water taxi (Q 85) after it had departed from alongside the Liberian Cargo ship TUNG SING anchored in C-2. A check of the water taxi revealed one man putting something under his shirt which turned out to be 237,000 piasters. The water taxi, two detainees, and the piasters were turned over to the NILO Qui Nhon for further investigation.

On 17 November, a Unit Three boat intercepted a sampan with two teenagers aboard who had 237,000 piasters in their possession. The boys stated they were going to buy cigarettes from ships in the outer harbor. The boys were put in custody that night and turned over to the Chief of National Police. The boys received jail sentences as black market operators. They had little knowledge of black market details and indicated that they were given the money by an unknown man and told to go to the ships in the outer harbor where they would be given sealed packages for the money. It appeared that the boys were mere pawns in a large scale black market operation.

Unit Four - Nha Trang

During November there were 23 junks and 42 persons detained in Unit Four's area of operation. Detainments were for curfew and restricted zone violations, lack of or faulty identification papers and no boat registration papers.

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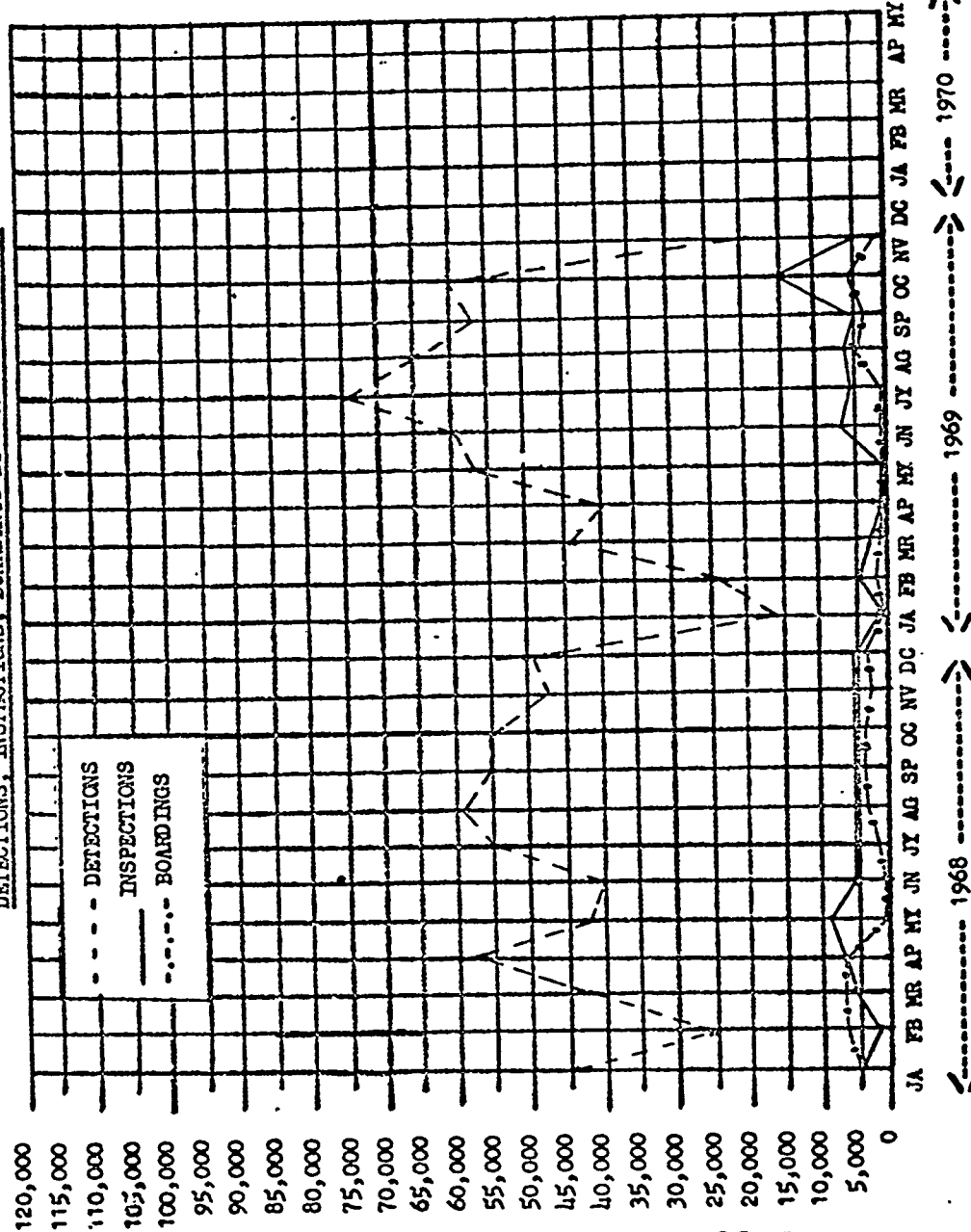
On 5 November, LST 581 was beached at the LST ramp and reported a man overboard. Skimmer 89 proceeded to the scene and recovered the man. Attempts to revive him using mouth to mouth resuscitation were unsuccessful and he was pronounced dead by the 51st Medical Company personnel, who also assumed custody of the body. The man was identified as Hisao Maedo, Able Seaman, age 42.

Commander Task Group 115.2 notified Unit Four on 12 November that PCF 90 had collided with a small fishing craft and requested assistance in the search for survivors. The fishing craft sank immediately and one man had been picked up by PCF 90. LCPL 56, Skimmers 25 and 28 proceeded to the area and commenced searching. After approximately one hour the search was terminated with negative results.

On 25 November LCPL 46 was hailed by a Korean security guard on a Korean barge at anchor in the harbor. The guard had caught a Vietnamese trying to steal "C" rations off the barge. LCPL 46 transferred the security guard and the detainee to the Cam Da pier for further transfer to the Vietnamese National Police.

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DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY STABLE DOOR UNITS



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RIVER PATROL FORCE SUMMARY

Throughout November, the River Patrol Force countered enemy pressure in the I Corps Tactical Zone, Mekong Delta, along the upper Saigon River, and in the Rung Sat Special Zone and in addition provided major support to on-going and recently activated Operation Sea Lords Interdiction Campaigns: Giant Slingshot, Border Interdiction (consisting of Tran Hung Dao and Barrier Reef Campaigns), Search Turn (Rach Gia Canal), Mang Thit-Micholai Canal and Cho Cao Canal Operations.

During November the groups, units, and elements of Command Task Force 116 were as follows:

<u>Designator</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Location</u>
CTF 116	COMRIVPATFOR/COMRIVPATFLOT FIVE	Binh Thuy
CTG 116.4	CO VAL 4	Binh Thuy
CTU 116.4.8	OIC VAL 4 Det A	Binh Thuy
CTU 116.4.9	OIC VAL 4 Det B	Vung Tau
CTU 116.6.7	OIC MST-2	Binh Thuy
CTE 116.6.7.1	MST-2 Det ALFA	Nha Be
CTE 116.6.7.2	MST-2 Det BRAVO	Ben Luc
CTE 116.6.7.3	MST-2 Det CHARLIE	Song Ong Doc
CTE 116.6.7.4	MST-2 Det DELTA	Nha Be
CTU 116.6.8	BJU-1 Team 13	Binh Thuy
CTU 116.6.8	EOD Team 38	Binh Thuy
CTG 116.8	CO HAL 3	Binh Thuy
CTG 116.9	COMRSSZRIVPATGRU	Nha Be

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CTU 116.9.1	COMRIVDIV 571	Nha Be
CTU 116.9.2	COMINEDIV 112	Nha Be
CTU 116.9.5	SEAL Team Det ALFA 10th Platoon	Nha Be
CTU 116.9.6	SEAL Team Det A 9th Platoon	Nha Be
CTU 116.9.8	OIC HAL 3 Det 2	Nha Be

Operating in the Rung Sat Special Zone during the month of November, Task Group 116.9 and VNN River Patrol Group 52 patrolled the Long Tau, Soi Rap, Thi Vai, and Go Gia Rivers day and night. The night patrols supported Regional Forces, Provincial Reconnaissance Units, and SEAL Teams or set waterborne guardposts. Troops from Quang Xuyen and Can Gio Districts engaged in anti-extortionist operations in conjunction with the National Police in areas adjacent to authorized work areas (Nhon Trach, Can Giuoc, and Long Le). Operations aimed at multiple targets were conducted by junks, PER's, and UH-1 B (Seawolf Helicopters). The Rung Sat Special Zone Regional Forces conducted Long Tau Security sweeps as directed by sub-sector commanders. Task Group 116.9 and River Patrol Group 52 pursued the following number of patrols per 24 hour period with PBR and ASPB between 9 and 15 November:

Long Tau Channel	- 4 patrols a day/5 patrols a night
Soi Rap	- 1 patrol a day/1 patrol a night
Gai Vai/Go Gia	- 1 patrol a day/1 patrol a night

A majority of PER's (140 out of 190) were engaged in the support of Sea Lords Campaigns.

Interdiction of the enemy in the Rung Sat Special Zone during November received special attention, in addition to joint operations

conducted with Vietn...ces, one named joint operation was undertaken with other free...ces. This joint operation was WOLFPACK II which commenced 14 November and continued through 17 November. WOLFPACK II was a combined operation consisting of United States and Republic of Vietnam Forces engaging in operations with the Royal Thai Army Volunteer Forces; 6th Army of the Republic of Vietnam; and units of the 1st Australian Task Force in the Northern Rung Sat Special Zone and Southern Nhon Trach areas. Their mission was to seek out and destroy elements of the Viet Cong Tenth Sapper Group (Doan 10). Noteworthy of the success of Operation WOLFPACK II were the following results:

Friendly casualties:	Four WIA (U.S.)
Enemy casualties:	42 KIA (34 BG-8 Prob)
Enemy material destroyed:	19 sampans; 12 structures; 13 bunkers; 8,700 lbs. of rice; 1,300 lbs. of salt; numerous cooking utensils; 50-10 ft. lengths of rebar; one water container
Enemy material captured:	One B-40 launcher; three B-40 rocket rounds; two AK-47's; two SKS rifles; one CKC rifle; three K-54 pistols; numerous rounds AK and SKS/webb gear; 25 rounds U.S. 75mm howitzer ammo; one M-16 rifle w/magazine; one mortar sight; 20-meter detonation cord; 10 kilos of TNT and C-4; one

blasting cap w/batteries and  
firing wire; one carbine magazine  
w/ammo; 12 kilos of documents; one  
communist flag; two fish nets; four  
transistor radios; numerous fish  
hooks; 20 packages typing paper  
(1000 sheets each); numerous yards  
flag material; 1000 ft. fishing  
line; one character; one bomb fuse;  
11 reams carbon paper; two adjustable  
wrenches; two wood saws; 25 hacksaw  
blades; two bellows; one hand-driven  
lathe w/pipe; two Coleman stoves;  
two hatches; two hammocks; and misc.  
clothing.

Operation Game Warden aircraft assets during November were 33 UH-1B  
helicopters deployed as follows: Detachment ONE (two helos) aboard USS  
TERRELL COUNTY (LST 1157) supporting Task Force 115 in Operation Sea  
Float/Tran Hung Dao III in the lower Cau Mau Peninsula; Detachment TWO  
(four helos) aboard USS JENNINGS COUNTY (LST 846) in an area five miles  
south southwest of Ha Tien; Detachment THREE was supporting Task Group  
194.4 in Barrier Reef operations extending to Ha Tien; Detachment FOUR  
(two helos) at Ben Luc; Detachment FIVE (two helos) aboard YRM-16 on the  
Upper Bassac River south east of Cham Doc; Detachment SIX (two helos)  
aboard USS GARRETT COUNTY (LST 748) in the lower Cau Mau Peninsula area;

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Detachment SEVEN (two helos) at Tay Ninh; Detachment EIGHT (two helos) aboard USS HARNETT COUNTY (LST 821) located approximately ten miles west of Rach Gia; Detachment NINE (two helos) aboard YRM-21 located approximately three miles north west of An Long and a maintenance pool of 13 helicopters at Binh Thuy. The 13 OV-10A's (Black Pony) aircraft were deployed as follows: Detachment A (five OV-10A's) at VNAF, Binh Thuy; Detachment B (five OV-10A's) at VNAF, Vung Tau; and a maintenance pool of three OV-10A's at Binh Thuy. These aircraft (OV-10A) accounted for over 1,061 flight hours in combat missions in addition to their normal surveillance patrols. A breakdown of these missions follows:

	<u>UH-1B</u>	<u>OV-10A</u>
Pre-planned Strikes	157	3
Reaction Strikes	110	45
Targets of Opportunity	188	142
Support Missions	288	46

There were 2,483 Game Warden resources and population control patrols which accounted for 86,829 detections, 36, 207 inspections and 25, 590 boardings.

#### Clearwater Operations

Command Task Force Clearwater noted a great increase in enemy activity in the vicinity of the Naval Support Activity Detachment at Cua Viet during November. On 1 November a combined North Vietnamese regular and Viet Cong group of 25 to 30 men engaged Task Force Clearwater PER's and a marine reconnaissance team with automatic weapons and B-40 rocket fire. On

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3 November, five to six North Vietnamese regulars and Viet Cong personnel engaged PBR 118 of River Division 521, Reconnaissance Team Barcroft from 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, and elements of the 3rd Marine Division in a fire fight. One Viet Cong was wounded in that encounter. There were no friendly casualties suffered during either encounter with the enemy. Both fire fights took place about 1,000 meters south of the NSAD Cua Viet.

Enemy activity in Xuan Khanh (VD 322 682), which was resettled by former inhabitants of the DMZ, increased irrespective of the numerous MEDCAPS, PSYOPS, and Civic Action Self-Help projects which had been performed by TF Clearwater. The village has continued to harbor the Viet Cong and sniper rounds have been received from the vicinity of the village on a regular basis during the month. Intelligence reports indicated that the sappers who mined and sunk YOG 76 on the 13 of November came from Xuan Khanh and enemy movement has been detected south of the Cua Viet perimeter several nights during the week of 16-22 November.

With the departure of the Third Marine Battalion and their 105mm battery from Cua Viet during November, base defense was reduced to one platoon, three 81mm mortars, and one 4.2 mortar. Commander Task Force Clearwater attempted to obtain additional troop support from the 2nd Regiment, 1st ARVN Division during November but this support was still pending at the end of the month. As a result, the Cua Viet defense perimeter was thinly manned throughout November.

Clearwater operations during the month of November involved resource and population control, daily chain drag sweeps of the Cua Viet and Perfume

Rivers, canal incursions for waterborne traffic, inspections, distribution of psyops material, and MEDCAPS (see Psychological Operations and Civic Action Summary for detailed Psyops and MEDCAP missions). Clearwater PBR assets at the end of the month were 20 boats, ten PBR's each assigned to RIVDIV 521 and RIVDIV 543.

Clearwater River Patrol Units inspected 9,560 personnel and detained 14 persons who were suspected of being Viet Cong during the month of November.

Game Warden PBR, UH-1B, And OV-10A Operations

From 0730 to 1400H on 2 November, two ASPB's and a Douche Boat (high velocity water firing craft) carried out bunker destruction missions on the Ba Giong River 11 miles south southeast of Nha Be (XS 978 608) in the Bung Sat Special Zone. The total results of the mission were six bunkers destroyed. There were no friendly or enemy personnel casualties during the mission.

On the evening of 4 November, Black Ponies 113 and 102 were scrambled to give overhead air cover to a SEAL detachment which was partially surrounded by a group of Viet Cong in an area five miles north of Nam Cam (VQ 975 847). The enemy ground fire was so intense that Seawolf helicopters (UH-1B) were unable to effect an extraction of the SEAL's. With clearance from command task force 116, Black Ponies 113 and 102 placed multiple rocket and machine gun strikes from 1717 to 1725. Black Pony strikes silenced the enemy fire and the Seawolves extracted the SEAL's. The LAFT continued to place strikes until approximately 1800H. A farther reconnaissance of the area revealed that one sampan proceeding out from the area

was transporting members of the Viet Cong group. The Black Ponies placed rocket fire on the evading sampan and destroyed it. Enemy personnel casualties were one VC killed (prob) and one sampan damaged. There were no friendly casualties.

Black Ponies 113 and 101 of Task Unit 116.4.8 were on a routine patrol with clearance from CTF 116 to place strikes on two groups of junks and sampans at a canal in an area 12 miles north of Cal Lanh (WS 658 835) on the night of 7 November. The Black Ponies expended 19-5" rockets, 75 rounds of 20mm fire, 3,000 rounds of 7.62mm fire; and 22-MK-45 paraflares and accounted for 12 sampans and three junks being destroyed, and 15 VC killed in action.

On the morning of 9 November, a U.S. Navy LHFT of Task Unit 116.9.8 spotted a beached sampan with its occupants attempting to camouflage the sampan in an area 18 miles southeast of Nha Be (YS 188 690) in the Rang Sat Special Zone. The LHFT placed strikes on the area and succeeded in destroying the sampan. There were no reports of enemy casualties.

While on a waterborne guardpost, four Rang Sat Special Zone PER's of TU 116.9.1 (PER 61, 62, 128 and 148) sighted one sampan with two VC crossing a canal in an area 13 miles east southeast of Nha Be (YS 148 753) on the night of 10 November. PER's 123 and 148 took the sampan under fire, killed the two VC and destroyed the sampan. While interdicting the sampan, the PER's received heavy automatic weapons fire from the west bank of the canal. PER's 61 and 62 broke their guardpost and proceeded to the aid of PER's 128 and 148 with support fire and illumination. At approximately

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2100 one B-40 rocket was fired at PER 128 from the north west bank of the stream and impacted astern of the PER inflicting no damage. PER 61 provided illumination, sighted the attacker, and succeeded in killing him. The PER's requested the aid of a LHFT who arrived at 2050 and placed strikes on the north bank of the area. The LHFT was relieved by a USA Nighthawk at 2145 who saturated the area with rocket fire. One U. S. sailor was injured by enemy fire but friendly counter fire accounted for three sampans destroyed and one Viet Cong killed.

While providing air support to one platoon of Regional Troops of 361 Company A, a USN LHFT of TU 116.9.8 made contact with Viet Cong personnel approximately 18.5 miles south east of Nha Be during the morning of 10 November. While directing automatic weapons fire at the LHFT, the VC evaded west into a wooded area. The four Viet Cong who had fired upon the LHFT were killed by RF Company 361. Investigation of the area by the Regional Troops uncovered a VC base camp that contained the following items which were confiscated: one B-40 launcher; one B-40 round; one CHICOM submachine gun with eight full magazines; two CHICOM anti-tank mines (30 kilos each); one kilo of documents and a small quantity of food and clothing. There were no friendly casualties.

While engaged in Operation WOLFPACK II in an area 15.5 miles east southeast of Nha Be (YS 165 829) during the pre-dawn hours of 14 November, three RSSZ ASPB's, and PER's were underway with Hunter/Killer Team, and Regional Forces of Company 363 and RSSZ EGD Team aboard. At 0925H the embarked Hunter/Killer Team sighted an evading Viet Cong swimmer and

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received sporadic sniper fire from the canal bank. The Hunter/Killer Team returned the fire and killed the swimming VC. At 1058H the group sighted one beached sampan in the vicinity of YS 158 833 and placed fire upon the sampan to destroy it. The group continued a ground sweep of the area until 1320H at which time the Hunter/Killer Team vectored one platoon of Regional Forces of Company 363, with their advisor, aboard the PBR's to provide a canal sweep of the area. No further contact was made and the PBR's extracted the units at 1640H.

On a patrol that was scrambled to support CTU 194.9.7, Black Pony 110 and 116 of TU 116.4.9 placed strikes in an area (XS 136 858) 31 miles west of Saigon on the Van Co Tay River on the night of 16 November. The LAFT received small arms fire from the enemy during the air strikes but succeeded in silencing the return fire. The results of the strike were determined to be six VC killed.

With clearance from CTF 116 on the afternoon of 16 November, Black Ponies 106 and 101 placed strikes on an enemy force of an unknown size that was inflicting heavy damage to friendly forces with machine gun fire 12 miles west southwest of Rach Gia (WS 350 001 to WS 345 002). The LAFT neutralized the machine gun fire and destroyed three structures.

Engaged in WOLFPACK II Operations, four ASPB's, one ZIPPO (flame throwing craft) of TU 116.9.1, and PBR's with troops embarked between the hours of 0600H and 1800H on 17 November commenced a search of suspected enemy positions in an area 17 miles east southeast of Nha Be. Friendly troops found ten kilos of TNT and C-4 (explosive), and ten kilos of

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documents. After the troops were extracted by Slick at 1645H, Hunter/Killer Teams placed weapons fire on a VC Base Camp, destroying six sampans, 1,200 pounds of rice, one bunker and three sleeping platforms. A U.S. Navy Zippo proceeded to the area in which the contraband had been discovered and expended two minutes of flame while PBR's 128 and 62 made firing runs on the area. This Operation WOLFPACK II, accounted for two VC's wounded and captured; two VC killed (prob) and two VC killed in action (BC). There was one friendly soldier wounded during the action.

On a scramble, with clearance from CTG 194.3 and CTF 116, Black Ponies 113 and 115 placed strikes 24 miles south southwest of Rach Gia (VR 835 665) on the evening of 20 November in support of friendly forces who were in contact with a VC platoon. One portion of the VC platoon broke contact with the friendly forces and proceeded south, while the remaining portion of the VC platoon proceeded to sea in five sampans. The Black Ponies pursued the evading sampans, illuminated one sampan, and received small arms fire from them. Intensified air strikes destroyed the sampan. Intelligence gained from the captured VC revealed the position of a company size base at VR 837 647. Black Pony strikes were placed in these coordinates with unknown results. The entire scramble accounted for four enemy killed in action and one sampan destroyed.

In the Rung Sat Special Zone 14.5 miles south of Nha Be, Regional Forces of Company 782 observed six rockets impact approximately 500 meters south of their compound (XS 942 572) on the evening of 22 November. The Regional Forces contacted OV-10A's (Black Ponies) and requested strikes

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to be made on the VC positions. The Black Ponies succeeded in neutralizing the enemy rocket fire.

On the morning of 26 November a Navy LHFT reported that several sampans were in a restricted area 16.5 miles southeast of Nha Be (YS 161 599). UH-1B (Seawolf Helicopter) 304 and 316 were directed by the U.S./VNM Tactical Operations Officer to drop smoke in order to drive the sampans in an easterly direction toward an authorized fishing area. The LHFT fired M-79 CS rounds (smoke bombs) in the restricted area and the door gunner on UH-1B 304 reported that one of the sampans may have been inadvertently hit by a smoke bomb. The LHFT reconned the area but saw nothing unusual. At 0941H on 29 November the Vietnamese TOC Watch Officer was notified by the Provincial Forces Platoon COO, Thanh An Village, that one Vietnamese male had been hit by LHFT bombs and knocked out of his sampan. The incident was reported to the Regional Forces Platoon by the second occupant of the sampan (the father of the missing Vietnamese male). The Vietnamese male was listed as missing as of the last of November.

During a routine aerial reconnaissance of an area 12 miles southeast of Nha Be (YS 108 753) a United Air Force SNAP (Light Observation Aircraft) sighted two Viet Cong evading into nippa palm. The SNAP maintains continuous overhead surveillance until a Bung Sat Special Zone Advisor scrambled a Navy LHFT. Arriving in the area, the LHFT placed strikes on enemy positions and succeeded in neutralizing the two Viet Cong. This action took place on the afternoon of 30 November.

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SEAL Operations

SEAL Detachment ALFA, 9th Platoon, of CTU 116.9.6 departed Nha Be on the afternoon of 8 November and were inserted by USA Slick (helicopter) 5 miles southwest of Nha Be (XS 888 713). In the process of searching a house in a reported Viet Cong sympathizing village, the SEAL's apprehended one district level Viet Cong. The SEAL's were extracted by Slick at 1745 without further incident.

After an insertion by USA Slick in the area 10 miles southwest of Nha Be (XS 869 627) on the morning of 10 November, SEAL Detachment ALFA, 9th Platoon, CTU 116.9.6 searched a nippa palm area and found one Viet Cong cache and recovered one kilo of documents and maps, two CHICOM hand grenades and two K-54 magazines. The squad was extracted around noon without making contact with the enemy.

Conducting operations in pursuit of WOLFPACK II requirements, SEAL Detachment ALFA, 10th Platoon, Squad ALFA, of CTU 116.9.5 was inserted by Slick 15 miles east of Nha Be in the Northera BSSZ area (YS 18C 785) on the morning of 14 November and set a trail guardpost. At approximately 1215H the squad heard a Viet Cong make sounds approximately 25 meters to the north of their guardpost. While using overhead helicopter noise for cover, the patrol moved to a strategic position and scrambled a Hunter/Killer Role Team to a position overhead the Viet Cong (position YS 178 782). The Hunter/Killer Team fire accounted for four Viet Cong being killed but return enemy fire was received from hidden positions and accounted for one SEAL being slightly wounded by automatic weapons fire.

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In the same area of action, a light observation helicopter received automatic weapons fire which resulted in one U.S. sailor being wounded (not seriously). A USA Slick dusted off and MEDEVACED the wounded SEAL, while the LOH returned to Nha Be with its wounded member. After the SEAL Squad was extracted by Slick the entire area was saturated by air strikes. Noteworthy in this operation was the capture of one kilo of documents which identified one Viet Cong Executive Officer A-1 (political staff section) Doan 10. The remaining documents were political propaganda except for a type written resume of Viet Cong operations during September and October of 1969.

After departing Nha Be by Slick on 15 November and inserting 10 miles east of Nha Be (YS 106 787), five SEAL's of Detachment ALFA, 9th Platoon, Squad ALFA of CTU 116.9.6 with 13 Provincial Reconnaissance personnel patrolled approximately 700 meters northeast of their trail guardpost and observed three Viet Cong walking west. The group detonated a pre-set claymore mine and took the Viet Cong under fire while requesting Navy LHFT strikes on the area. The group was extracted by Slick and received sporadic enemy ground fire during their departure. The encounter accounted for one Viet Cong killed (BC), two Viet Cong killed (prob), and one CHICOM sub-machine gun being captured.

Two members of SEAL Detachment ALFA, 10th Platoon suffered wounds (one slight and one serious) when their squad's guardpost position was taken under enemy automatic weapons fire 11 miles east of Nha Be (YS 102 782) on the afternoon of 24 November. A scrambled LHFT dusted off the

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wounded SEAL's to Nha Be and the remaining SEAL's patrolled the area without making contact with the enemy.

After departing Nha Be 261600H in a LSSC (Light SEAL Support Craft) SEAL Detachment ALFA, 10th Platoon, Squad BRAVO of CTU 116.9.5 set a waterborne guard post 17 miles east of Nha Be (YS 198 776). At 2000H the SEAL's detected a sampan traveling west and took the sampan under fire, killing the sampan's three occupants. The squad destroyed the sampan and returned to Nha Be at 2230H on the 26 of November.

Enemy Mining/Harassment/Attacks on Merchant Shipping

The RSSZ Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team removed a mine from the SS SEATRAN MAINE on the night of 5 November. The ship was anchored approximately 1,000 meters north of Nha Be, 400 meters off the Shell Tank Farm Pier (XS 920 820). The Vietnamese EOD team observed a line attached to the ship's anchor chain. The team cut the line and towed the mine clear of the ship to the east of the river where they determined that the mine was a four feet by 20 inches by 20 inches and contained six sections with a pointed buoyancy tank in front. The mine was held together by metal rods and contained approximately 150-200 pounds of explosives. The RSSZ EOD team stated that the mine failed to detonate due to a faulty firing mechanism (water soluble washer type). The EOD team destroyed the mine at 1040 on 6 November. Throughout the operation a USN PBR and ASPB provided surveillance of the ships in the area. Vessels in the immediate area were:

<u>Vessel</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Distance from SS SEATRAN MAINE</u>
SS TRANS CARIBBEAN	Cat Lai Anchorage 1	8,000 meters
SS ANTINOUS	Cat Lai Anchorage 3	8,000 meters

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There were reports that three rocket rounds impacted within 700 yards of LST-287 while transiting the Long Tau River at approximately 1320H on 20 November. The U.S. Navy sources stated that PBK's in the area reported no enemy activity on the river at the time. The pilot embarked on LST-287 stated that there was firing on shore by friendly forces and that the rounds could have been misfires. The USNS LST-287 received no hits and there were no casualties to personnel or equipment.

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USN STATISTICAL SUMMARY  
NOVEMBER 1969

	<u>MARKET TIME</u>	<u>GAME WARDEN</u>
Detections	17,410	86,829
Inspections	6,371	36,207
Boardings	4,508	25,590
Craft detained	92	2
Persons detained	291	*
Viet Cong suspects	58	5
Hostile fire incidents	50	366
Enemy casualties:		
a. Killed	95 (67BC & 28PROB)	453 (225BC & 228PROB)
b. Wounded	14	43
c. Captured	32	5
USN casualties:		
a. Killed	0	8
b. Wounded	27 (14US, 7VNN, 6RF)	66
c. Captured	0	0
d. Missing	0	0
Enemy material losses:		
a. Destroyed:		
(1) Junks or sampans	182	219
(2) Structures	282	145
b. Captured:		
(1) Junks or sampans	*	5
(2) Weapons	*	41
(3) Ammunition (rounds)	*	26,991
(4) Rice (tons)	*	4
c. Damaged:		
(1) Junks or sampans	7	43
(2) Structures	132	118
USN material losses:		
a. Destroyed:		
(1) Surface craft	0	1
(2) Helicopters	0	0
b. Damaged:		
(1) Surface craft	8	14
(2) Helicopters	1	1
SAR missions	4	*

Remarks:

\* - Information not available or not applicable

GROUP 4  
Downgraded at 3 year intervals  
Declassified after 12 years

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## NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP SUMMARY

### Fleet Command

The 13 U. S. Navy PCF's that were turned over to the Vietnamese Navy on 31 October in Saigon were delayed in their transit to Qui Nhon by adverse weather. However, on 5 November, along with the turnover of the Coastal Surveillance Center at Qui Nhon, the Vietnamese Navy assumed the responsibilities for Market Time stations 3C, 3D, 3E, 3F, 3G, 3H, and 3I. The PCF's have been patrolling all these stations with the exceptions of 3E and 3H which have been assigned to CG 21 and CG 23. With the additional seven Market Time stations, the Vietnamese have a total of 27 stations under their operational control. The receipt of two more WFB's on 17 November was reflected later in the month when these two units began Market Time patrols in the 1st and 3rd Coastal Zones.

The total number of people and junks searched by Fleet Command units in November was 18,011 and 5,084 respectively. The corresponding detainment figures in November were 17 and zero.

There was a significant reduction in the number of gunfire support missions fired in November in comparison to the figure for October. While 52 NGFS missions were fired by Fleet Command ships in October, only 28 missions were recorded in November. As in the preceding months, the greatest majority of the fire support operations were designated as harassment and interdiction missions.

One exception was reported on 10 November when LSIL 328 was called in to render assistance to a VN outpost on the upper Mekong River that was under enemy

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attack. With the LSIL placing devastating fire in the area approximately four miles south of the international Cambodia/Vietnam border (vicinity of WS 200 985), the enemy attack was soon extinguished. No enemy damage assessment was made available.

At the end of three minesweeping runs on the Dong Nai River, the VNN minesweepers of RAG 91 recovered from their gear two conductor electrical wires having a total length of 150 feet. On the last occasion, which was on 22 November, the wire was attached to a claymore mine plug.

LSIL 225 which had been assigned to Sea Float operations on the lower Ca Mau peninsula in the latter part of the month was approaching an area to conduct a Psyops mission on the morning of 28 November, twelve miles east northeast of Nam Can, almost at the intersection of the Cuo Lon and Bo De Rivers (WQ 201 719), when an unknown sized VC force unleashed B-40 and U. S. anti-tank rockets and small arms on the unsuspecting LSIL. With an almost instantaneous response, the LSIL placed a heavy blanket of concentrated fire into the VC positions. Three U.S. Navy PCF's, who were accompanying the LSIL, made firing runs on the ambush site while the LSIL came about in order to gain position for another run. Although the LSIL had been slightly damaged by one U.S. anti-tank rocket and small arms fire, she made a total of three firing passes at the ambush site before running the bow up on the river bank in order to facilitate the movement of a landing party. Almost at the exact location of the beached LSIL, the landing party discovered a second abandoned ambush site which contained six B-40 rockets, four B-40 launchers, five home-made launchers, one U.S. anti-tank rocket, five booby

trap grenades, electric cable, a single water can, eleven U.S. grenade launcher adapters and several unfinished dinners. The VNN reaction force, which landed at the original ambush position via PCF, found large amounts of blood left by the fleeing VC.

#### River Patrol Group

The 83 PBR's assigned to the four River Patrol Groups, RPG 51, 52, 53, and 54, of TF 212, were actively engaged in river patrols and interdiction operations in the Third and Fourth Riverine areas in November. Routine day and night patrols of the Long Tau shipping channels, the upper Dong Nai and lower Saigon Rivers, and in the RSSZ were performed by RPG 51 and RPG 52, operating from their bases at Cat Lai and Nha Be, respectively. Although they experienced a generally low level of enemy activity, there were several significant incidents of confrontation with the enemy. On one occasion, RPG 51 PBR's engaged three VC in an evading sampan on the Saigon River two miles east of Saigon (XS 908 913) on the evening of 24 December. The VN sailors expended M-16 and M-79 fire in an unsuccessful attempt to intercept the lone sampan.

Later in the month on 29 November, RPG 51 uncovered a partially submerged VC sampan eight miles east of Saigon on the Dong Nai River. Many foot prints around the sampan and matted grass indicated recent activity in the area.

The PBR's of RPG 54 were equally divided between operations in the vicinity of My Tho and Tran Hung Dao operation on the Vinh Te Canal. The units assigned to Tran Hung Dao were given the task force designator TG 194.4.3.3 and were utilizing the YRBM-16 located just east of Chau Doc (WS 142 845)



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as their base. The RFG 54 PBR's stationed at My Tho have quickly developed active patrols of the My Tho and surrounding rivers and the strategically important Cho Gao Canal. (See discussion of Tran Hung Dao operations in SEA LORDS Summary for further details).

River Patrol Group 53, which joined Giant Slingshot forces in October, carried out interdiction and river patrol operations from the bases at Ben Luc (TG 194.9.0.1) and Tan An (194.9.4.1). (See discussion of Giant Slingshot Operations in the SEA LORDS Summary for further details).

#### Coastal Junk Forces

At the end of November, there were 226 junks and 17 riverine craft assigned to the Coastal Junk Groups, including RAG 32, operating in all four Coastal Zones. There was a slight improvement in the average number of craft that were operational and employed in comparison to the corresponding figures compiled in October. An average of 176.6 units were operational each day, and an average of 171.7 were employed. During the month, the coastal forces searched 50,348 junks and 167, 294 people. They detained 70 junks and 314 people for further questioning and identification.

#### First Coastal Zone

The general trend of enemy action was considered to be low level with the exception of the period 8-14 November when increased activity was reported in the Cua Viet area, home of CG 11. An unusually large number of VC rallied to CG 14 located in the Cua Dai River Basin. The usual reasons the 15 ralliers gave were poor living conditions and being just plain tired of fighting. For the entire First Coastal Zone, there have been 161 VC who have rallied to

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USN/VNN forces since the beginning of the year.

On the afternoon of 5 November, a lone CG 11 Yabuta junk detained a 28 year old girl just southeast of Cua Viet (YD 322 682). In her possession was an oatmeal filled sandbag that also concealed the location of various medicines. After being questioned, she readily admitted to being a VC and said that she would lead the Vietnamese sailors to a secret bunker hideout in the area. Late in the afternoon, a ten man VNN reaction force with USN advisors were led by the girl to the supposed bunker. After searching for several hours, the team returned to the CG 11 base, leaving the secret bunker hideout still a secret.

Two skimmer boats of CG 14 were carrying out sector operations four miles east of the CG 14 base on the Ba Ren River (vicinity of BT 135 505) on 12 November. A devastating blow was delivered the enemy as the VN established contact with VC swimmers, VC in a lone sampen (BT 123 507), and VC personnel that were in an adjacent field (BT 128 510). Fourteen VC were annihilated and five others along with two AK-47's, 18 grenades, and some miscellaneous supplies were taken into custody. One VC doctor, two VC corpsmen, and one senior VC petty officer were identified among the confirmed dead.

#### Second Coastal Zone

The six Coastal Groups, 21, 23, 25, 26, 27, and 28, located in the 2nd Coastal Zone performed base defense operations, river and Market Time patrols, as well as Psyops operations which were the focal point of their activity. The Market Time stations 3E and 3H were assigned to CG 21 and

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CG 23 on 5 November when the Qui Nhon Coastal Surveillance Center was turned over to the Vietnamese.

Although there was a dramatic increase in the number of enemy initiated incidents in the first two weeks of November in the II CTZ, the coastal groups were spared contact. The Naval air facility at Cam Ranh Bay did receive a mortar attack on 14 November. By the third week of the month, the number of enemy encounters had been reduced to the low level that was recorded throughout the previous month. (See Psychological Operations and Civic Action Summary for further details).

#### Third Coastal Zone

The coastal groups of the Third Coastal Zone, CG's 33, 34, 35, and 36, conducted river and coastal patrols, waterborne guard post operations, PRU missions, PSYOPS, base defense and Sea Float operations. The ten units from CG 33, 35, and 36 that were assigned to Sea Float operations carried out the majority of their operations on the Cua Lon River. Third Coastal Zone forces also operated on the Mui Gini, Ham Luong, Hau Giang and Co Chien River, and the small Ong Ben and Cua Lap streams, and on the waterways that interlace the RSSZ.

The enemy high point which had been anticipated to occur sometime during the first half of November took place in the night of 3-4 November, during which time there was a total of 27 enemy attacks by fire. These actions were restricted almost entirely to indirect small scale attacks to the fire support bases located in Tay Ninh, Binh Long and Phuoc Long Provinces. The four Third Coastal Zone Coastal Groups were spared contact during this

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enemy high point. As the month passed by, the intensity of enemy activity gradually returned to the low levels of October.

A CG 34 canal reconnaissance mission on 1 November 25 miles southeast of Ben Tre on the Rach Eo Loi (XR 762 946) was interrupted by a VC B-40 rocket that passed close aboard. The CG 34 personnel and U.S. advisors, LT Rowh, LTJG Lillioth, BMC Wekaold and EN3 Sampson, returned and suppressed the enemy fire, killing two VC in the process.

Shortly after midnight on the evening of 7-8 November, a CG 34 junk ran aground on a sand bar just off the coast, 29 miles southeast of My Tho (XS 900 100), at the mouth of the Ba Lai River. The initial efforts to free the stricken vessel by two other CG 34 junks were unsuccessful as they also went aground. On 11 November, two WPB's, one PCF and a chinook helo were at the scene to render assistance. Attempts to free the junks by the helo alone and in conjunction with the WPB's and PCF were tried. Finally in the afternoon a channel leading to the water had been dug. While the tide was cresting, the three junks were towed to deep water by the PCF 54.

Near the end of the month on 29 November, a lone CG 36 junk spotted a junk southwest toward the river bank 26 miles southeast of Can Tho on the lower Bassac River (XR 200 733). When the CG 36 junk pursued the evading craft, seven VC personnel showed their weapons and called out that they wanted to surrender. As the CG 36 junk approached the sampan, one VC threw a grenade into the CG 36 junk. The VNN opened fire and maneuvered to clear the area, two of the three VNN on the junk had been wounded but seven VC were killed (six probable) and three semi-automatic weapons, one grenade, some ammunition, and the VC sampan were captured.

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Fourth Coastal Zone

In the Fourth Coastal Zone, the four Vietnamese Coastal Groups, CG 41, 42, 43, and 44, continued to participate in Operation Tran Hung Dao, Market Time operations, base defense, river patrols, logistic lifts and Psyops missions. The 22 junks assigned to the western sector of Tran Hung Dao were rotated on the night, single boat, waterborne guardposts from the Ha Tien base such that an average of 13 posts were set each day. (See discussion of Tran Hung Dao in SEA LORDS Summary for further details). The remainder of the operating junks carried out their missions from An Thoi, Hon Tre, and Poulo Panjang. The Market Time stations that the junks were patrolling this month 8C, 8D, 9C, 9D, 9E, 9F and 9G, were particularly critical this month because of the increased indication that the enemy was going to make a concerted effort to infiltrate supplies to the U-Minh Forest and Base Area 483 via the sea.

Third and Fourth Riverine Areas

Although the total number of river patrols and amphibious operations conducted by the RAG's were slightly lower in November, the number of river patrols decreased from 1175 in October to 1067 in November, and the number of amphibious operations increased from 2515 in October to 2606 in November. For the past several months the total number of river patrols and amphibious operations of the RAG's has stabilized around 3500. A reduction in river patrols has generally been offset by an increase in the number of amphibious operations.

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The river patrols and amphibious operations have been the major commitments for the RAG's, however, they have also been employed in logistics lifts, escort duties, Psyops and civic action missions.

One company of the 1/50th Regiment, 25th ARVN Division had joined forces with the RAG 22 boats on 2 November five and one half miles south southeast of Ben Luc in an area adjacent to the Nhut Tao River which feeds into the Van Co Dong (XS 652 658). When the RAG boats began to put the troops ashore for a sweep to the south, the entire force came under semi-automatic weapons from an estimated enemy squad that was positioned in bunkers (XS 652 657). During the exchange of fire that followed two ARVN and two VC were killed; five ARVN were wounded; four bunkers were destroyed; 12 RPG's, five B-40 rockets, one CKC rifle, one K-54 pistol, 25 kilograms of C-4, six AK-47 magazines, one small bag of documents and one sampan were captured.

RAG 22, operating in the Giant Slingshot area, was again involved in enemy action on the evening of 13-14 November. An estimated enemy platoon had attacked the Thu Thua Canal outpost two and one half miles up river from Ben Luc (XS 581 768). The RAG 22 units were ordered into the Ben Luc River in order to provide security at the Ben Luc District Headquarters. About one half hour after the original attack, the RAG boats received one B-40 rocket and small arms fire which wounded two VNN and damaged one LCVP. The VNN did return the fire with unknown results.

RAG 24 units, working the Upper Saigon River with the 5th ARVN Division, conducted an amphibious operation on 25-26 November 14 miles north northwest of Saigon (XT 705 213). Three platoons were put ashore for perimeter security on the evening of 25 November. The following morning while the troops searched,

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the RAG's destroyed one sampan and one bunker. The ARVN soldiers were extracted about 0900 and then inserted to the east ( XT 720 216) for a four platoon sweep. The RAG boats demolished one more bunker and three more tunnels before picking up the troops and joining other 5th ARVN Division units in a blocking operation.

In the Fourth Riverine Area, seven RAG 21/23 were underway from Dong Tam on the morning of 10 November. After a refueling stop at My Tho, they proceeded to the operations area east of My Tho. They remained there until the middle of the afternoon when the boats transited to the Ham Luong Ferry landing area (XS 483 298) in order to perform night patrols and security operations. Around noon of the following day, the RAG units were enroute to the planned troop extraction rendezvous three miles southeast of My Tho (XS 553 193). The troop boarding took place without incident, and the amphibious force had traveled about one mile towards My Tho (from XS 547 206 to XS 529 225) when they began receiving 75mm, 57mm, B-40 rocket and automatic weapons fire from the bank. The Command and Communications Boat (CCB) and two LCM-6's took direct hits. The USN advisor, GMGC Parsons, aboard the CCB, was sitting two feet from where the 75mm recoilless rifle round landed. Although the blast physically moved him five feet to the rear of the boat, he sustained no injuries and immediately called in artillery and helo gunship support. With an engine room ablaze in one boat and a gaping three foot by three foot square hole in another, the Vietnamese maneuvered these two units to the beach where they could be saved. After the helo gunship placed strikes into the enemy locations, the unfriendly automatic weapons fire became silent. While the 15 VNN and ARVN were being medevaced at the Ham Luong Ferry landing and the troops were disembarking,

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three rescue units from Dong Tam returned to the stricken vessels and took them in tow. The crippled CCB did not stay in Dong Tam with the other RAG units but continued to My Tho in order to deliver the one Vietnamese sailor who was killed in the skirmish.

The Vinh Long based RAG's 23/31 regularly escorted logistic craft on the Mang Thit-Nicolai Canal and supported 9th ARVN Division operation Chuong Thien Province along with the RAG's 25/29 homeported at Can Tho. The RAG 26 located at Long Xuyen was assigned to the Kien Giang Sector for operations with the 21st ARVN Division. This included amphibious operations out of Kien An on the Cai Lon River.

#### Amphibious Task Force 211

Amphibious Task Force 211, which is composed of RAID's 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, and 75 with the combined assets of 108 riverine craft, participated in river patrols, amphibious and interdiction operations, logistics lifts, and Psyops and civic action missions. The 497 river patrols and 1,447 amphibious operations that they conducted in November accounted for the major utilization of the RAID's. The number of river patrols was comparable to the October figure. However, the number of amphibious operations dropped by more than 500 missions from the October total of 2,010 missions.

The two oldest RAID's, 70 and 71, ATG 211.1, continued to carry out interdiction missions in Giant Slingshot operations on the Vam Co Dong and Vam Co Tay Rivers from their respective bases at Tan An, CTE 194.9.4.2, and Ben Luc, CTE 194.9.0.2. Although the RAID's 70 and 71 assets had their headquarters at Ben Luc and Tan An, their units were regularly operating out of

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Ben Keo (Tay Ninh), Tra Cu, and Moc Hoa. (See discussion of Giant Slingshot in SEA LORDS Summary for further details of the operations of RAID's 70 and 71).

The ATF 211.3, composed of 52 riverine craft of RAID's 72, 74, and 75, and the 4th and 6th Infantry Battalions, VNMC, with their supporting artillery units, aggressively pursued the enemy in the U-Minh Forest of Kien Giang Province. The RAID craft, operating from base locations at Tan Bang (VR 996 542) and Dong Hung (VR 942 621), utilized the Can Gao Canal and connecting waterways to provide their basic lift and fire support capability to the Vietnamese Marines.

The launching of the enemy winter-spring campaign in the 4th CTZ in the beginning of November was considered to have reached a high point on the night of 6/7 November when 44 individual fire attacks and no ground attacks were reported in the Delta. The previous night of 5/6 November, there were 16 individual fire attacks and four ground attacks including the enemy assaults against the VNN VNMC forces positioned at Tan Bang (VR 996 542) and Dong Hung (VR 942 621). The attack at Dong Hung was the scene of the heaviest fighting that the new RAID's had engaged in. While moored at the ATF 211 command post at Dong Hung, the RAID craft and command post came under 82mm mortar attack at approximately 0130. The mortar attack ceased at about 0145 only to resume at 0300 with the added firepower of 60mm mortars, B-40/41 rockets and 57mm recoilless rifles. Under the cover of the heavy barrage of mortar, rocket, and recoilless rifle fire, approximately two battalions of VC surrounded and attacked the command post. When it was imminent that the friendly positions were going to be overrun, the VNMC staff, advisors, and most of the troops of the two companies of the

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6th Infantry Battalion boarded the RAID boats on the west bank allowing the VC forces to destroy the tents, huts, bunkers, and communications equipment that the marines were forced to leave behind. All the RAID boats traveled to the east bank. From this position, they were able to place only limited fire upon the enemy because of some VNNMC that still remained on the west bank. From the CCB, the friendly forces were able to call in spooky and shadow aircraft who were able to respond to the call and remain on station until 0630 when the enemy forces broke off the ground attack.

The VC battalion had inflicted heavy casualties and damage on the VNN/VNNMC forces in the isolated incident, but they paid dearly for their efforts. A total of 19 of the 21 RAID 72 and 74 boats suffered varying degrees of battle damage but no boats were sunk, and only three craft with flooded engine rooms could not move under their own power. The command post and communication center were severely damaged. The marines suffered 30 killed, 84 wounded, and three missing. The two USN advisors to RAID 74, who received minor shrapnel wounds, GMSG1 Garcis and BM1 Stauber, were more fortunate than the two VNN who died fighting and 36 other VNN who were wounded. The VNNMC reported that 85 VC were killed in this attack and ensuing actions. The following enemy weapons were recovered: 16 AK-47's, three B-40/41 rocket launchers, and one Chicom machine gun.

There were no VNN casualties or damage as a result of the mortar attack on Tan Bang on the same morning. However, later that morning, RAID 75 boats engaged in an enemy ambush while on a river patrol between Tan Bang and Dong Hung (VR 948 610). Three VC were killed and eight VNN were wounded. One ATC was slightly damaged from a B-40 rocket hit.

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Seemingly undaunted in their willingness to confront the VNM/VNMC forces, the VC, estimated at battalion size, attacked the Dong Hung position on the evening of 7/8 November. Following approximately 75 rounds of 82mm mortars, B-40 and B-41 rockets, the VC force mounted successive ground attacks from the southeast and southwest. The valiant attempts were squelched by the combined efforts of helo gunship, the RAID units, and the VNMC ground forces. Twenty VC were eliminated by the friendly forces, but five marines and one VN sailor lost their lives, and eight marines and two VN sailors received wounds. Major damage was sustained in two of the RAID craft, and a third sank. As they fled, the VC were careful to pick up the weapons of their fallen comrades. Only one AK-47 was captured.

The first six weeks of the operations in the U-Minh Forest went largely unchallenged. However, faced with a continued build up of friendly forces, the enemy had decided, at least in the opening days of November, to wage comparatively large scale offensive operations in order to re-establish his hold on the area. The U-Minh Forest has consistently been an integral part of the enemy plans for the Delta, and the positive effects of the GVN accelerated pacification program and friendly offensive operations have definitely impaired their activities.

Because of the extensive battle damage and general material condition of the RAID 72, 74, and 75 units, 15 RAID 72 and 74 boats proceeded to the USS ASKARI (ARL 30) at Long Xuyen in order to carry out the required maintenance. In order to fill the craft vacancy, ten RAID 73 transited from Thoi Binh (WR 100 320) to Dong Hung on 9 and 10 November. Their arrival brought about the realignment of ATG 211.2 to include both RAID's 73 and 75. The relief of ATG 211.3 by ATG 211.2 at Dong Hung on 10 November was affected since the

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majority of the RAID 72 and 74 boats had departed the area.

Amphibious operations and waterborne guardposts with Vietnamese marine units through the remainder of the month met daily resistance. On 13 November, Dong Hung came under mortar attack again with 25 82mm mortar rounds being fired at the command post and incoming helos. One Vietnamese sailor and four marines were killed, and 13 marines, one USMC advisor, and one VNM were wounded. The 6th Infantry Battalion, VNMC, was relieved by an ARVN Ranger Battalion of its security assignment at Tan Bang on 14 November. However, the marines continued offensive operations in the same general area.

In order to have the best utilization of the RAID craft, it was decided to redeploy RAID 73 to the Song Ong Doc area of operations. After lifting two companies of the 5th Infantry Battalion to Tan Bang on 25 November, the RAID 73 units proceeded to Ca Mau in anticipation of relieving USN RAD 131 units at the end of the month.

Movement of the 105mm howitzer from Tan Bang to a new location about ten miles north northeast of Dong Hung (WR 005 780) took place on 27 November. At the same time, other equipment was moved to Dong Hung, and all the RAID craft previously located at Tan Bang were repositioned at Dong Hung. (See VNMC Summary for further details of ATG 211.2 and ATG 211.3 operations).

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As of 30 November, the Vietnamese Navy had the following number and types of craft assigned as indicated:

Logistic Ships	23
Patrol Ships	41
PCF's	33
WPB's	5
1st Coastal Zone Junks	47
1st Coastal Zone, RAG 32	17
2nd Coastal Zone Junks	57
3rd Coastal Zone Junks	65
4th Coastal Zone Junks	57
3rd Riverine Area RAG's	62
4th Riverine Area RAG's	102
Amphibious Task Force 211 <sup>1</sup>	108
Task Force 212 (RPG's) <sup>2</sup>	83
Central Task Force <sup>3</sup>	65
Total	765

1. ATF includes RAID's 70, 71, 72, 73, 74

2. TF 212 includes all PBR's assigned to RPG's 51, 52, 53, and 54

3. Central Task Force includes RAG's 27, 81, and 91

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Vietnamese Marine Corps

While employed exclusively in the III and IV Corps tactical areas, the Vietnamese Marine Corps and their U.S. Marine Corps Advisors aggressively sought out the enemy through the utilization of amphibious, heliborne, reconnaissance, defense and security operations. The Marine and enemy casualty statistics were almost a direct reflection of the activity of the 4th, 5th and 6th Infantry Battalions and their supporting units in the U-Minh Forest. The launching of the enemy's Winter Spring Campaign in the Delta was considered to have taken place in the period 5-8 November. On the evening of 5-6 November, the VEMC Brigade "B" headquarters, two companies of the 6th Infantry Battalion, Battery C of the Artillery Battalion and 21 RAID 72 and 74 craft at Dong Hung (VR 944 620) were subjected to a stand off attack of approximately 500 rounds of 82mm mortars and B-40/41 rockets. This was followed by a ground assault directed against the Brigade CP, which was successfully repulsed by the VNMC and VEM Forces. The final results were: 30 marines, two VEM, and 85 VC killed; 88 marines and 38 VNM (including two USN advisors) wounded; heavy damage to the command post and to the RAID craft; sixteen AK-47's, three B-40/41 launchers and one CHICOM machine gun captured.

Brigade "A"

The Brigade "A" staff was in a six hour reserve standby status to JGS until 10 November when it departed Saigon to relieve Brigade "B" located in the U-Minh Forest. The Battery "A" of the 1st Artillery Battalion joined the Brigade at Dong Tam. The relieving process was completed on 12 November at Dong Hung (VR 944 620). The Brigade "A" and Battery "A" utilized the sites vacated by Brigade "B" and Battery "C". The following

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day the command post came under a VC 82mm mortar attack. Twenty-six rounds landed with pinpoint accuracy in the command post causing 25 casualties among the 4th Battalion, the artillery battery, the brigade staff, and the VNN. One VNN officer was killed and the USMC artillery advisor, Captain R. Porter, received shrapnel wounds in the face. The headquarters functioned the remainder of the month as the coordinator of the marine units and air and waterborne assets that operated in the area.

Brigade "B"

The Brigade "B" staff functioned as the headquarters unit for the VNMC units operating in the U-Minh Forest through 12 November. After they were relieved by Brigade "A", the Brigade "B" staff and Battery "C" traveled to Rach Soi (WS 151 007) where they remained overnight before proceeding to Saigon via Can Tho. Leaving Battery "C" at Dong Tam, the Brigade "B" Headquarters arrived at the VNMC Headquarters on 14 November and assumed the six hour alert status to JGS that was previously filled by the Brigade "A" staff.

1st Infantry Battalion

The 1st Infantry Battalion was assigned a one hour alert status as JGS reserve at Cam, Nguyen Van Nho (XS 874 935) for the entire month with the exception of the period 3-9 November when it returned to its base camp at Thu Duc (XT 922 007) for one week of training and rehabilitation.

2nd Infantry Battalion

From 1-6 November the 2nd Infantry Battalion, stationed at Ben Luc (XS 625 756), was under the operational control of the Giant Slingshot

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Commander, CTG 194.9. From positions to the south and southeast of Ben Luc (XS 558 834, XS 553 809, XS 625 736), the 2nd Battalion units sent out platoon sized patrols and night squad single guard posts. Although the battalion did not establish enemy contact during this period, they uncovered a small cache on 2 November that contained 100 handmade grenades, 143 rifle grenades and 200 rounds of carbine ammunition (at XS 547 806).

Changing operational control to the 5th ARVN Ranger Group on 6 November, the 2nd Battalion moved to a new location four miles east of Saigon (XS 754 938). There were negative results through 10 November when the Battalion was assigned an operational area that stretched from six kilometers west of Saigon to the Vam Co Dong River. In order to facilitate operations in the area, the Battalion headquarters and one company relocated to Fire Support Base Barbara (XS 571 856). The remaining battalion units were strategically located in the area (XS 704 845, XS 875 820, XS 587 826). The 2nd Battalion carried out air mobile operations in conjunction with the U.S. 25th Infantry Division with negative results until 24 November. After the 3rd Battalion relieved the 2nd Battalion on 24 November, the 2nd Battalion returned to the Thu Duc base camp and a six hour alert status under JCS control.

#### 3rd Infantry Battalion

From 1-15 November, the 3rd Infantry Battalion underwent refresher training at the Van Kiep National Training Center (YS 400 610). With the completion of four weeks of refresher training on 15 November, the Battalion was placed on 6 hour alert as JCS Reserve. The following day they returned

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to their Thu Duc base camp. On 24 November the 3rd Battalion exchanged missions with the 2nd Battalion and came under the operational control of the 5th Ranger Group ARVN. The Battalion deployed an average of eight squad and five platoon sized guardposts per night. There was negative enemy contact for the remainder of the month.

#### 4th Infantry Battalion

The 4th Infantry Battalion served in various capacities as one of the ground elements of ATF 211 in the U-Minh Forest in November. The unit met with light resistance on 5 November (VR 873 665). Five VC were killed, one VC was captured and CKC rifle and some hand grenades were taken into custody. Contact was again established on 6 November resulting in one VC and two VNMC being killed and five marines being wounded. As a result of the enemy attack on the ATF Headquarters on the morning of 5/6 November, two companies were moved to reinforce the security of the command post at Dong Hung on the afternoon of 6 November. On 13 November when the ATF 211 Headquarters came under 82mm mortar attack, the 4th Battalion took the brunt of the casualties. Four of their men were killed and another 14 were wounded. The same day, the fourth Battalion engaged a VC force at VR 902 605, killing two of them and capturing five grenades and one knife.

After the 4th Battalion was relieved as the ATF 211 Headquarter security force on 23 November, it was helo lifted into several areas of suspected VC activity. Three VC were captured on 25 November (VR 862 718) and one kilogram of documents was found on 26 November.

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On 30 November, elements of the battalion found and destroyed a VC complex consisting of a first aid station, an information center and an armory. Two pistols, one Russian rifle, one shotgun, ten boxes of TNT, one PRC 25 radio, three 105mm shells and some miscellaneous rifle parts were removed from the VC complex.

5th Infantry Battalion

The 5th Infantry Battalion operated as an element of ATF 211 in the Song Ong Doc District of An Xuyen Province and in the U-Minh Forest area of Kien Giang Province in November. An ambush on the evening of 6 November fourteen miles west southwest of Ca Mau (VR 926 057) ended with the death of three VC, the capture of one CKC rifle, two mines, ten hand grenades, 500 rounds of small arms ammunition, 800 kilograms of rice and two kilograms of documents, and the destruction of one sampan. Early the following morning, a marine squad outpost (VR 977 036) was overrun by an unknown sized enemy force after the outpost had been taken under fire with twenty rounds of 60mm mortar, B-40 and B-41 rockets. Five marines were killed, four were wounded, and five M-16's and one M-79 grenade launcher were taken from the marines. The enemy was not to be spared casualties as five of their men were killed, one was captured, and twenty B-40 rockets and twelve enemy hand/grenades were recovered.

Between 14 and 17 November, the 5th Battalion concentrated on operations between the western edge of the U-Minh Forest and the Gulf of Thailand. On 16 November the marines joined forces with U.S. Air Cavalry forces to kill 41 VC and destroy fifteen sampans on a small canal three and one half miles southwest of Dong Hung (VR 893 658).

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Minor incidents were reported during the remainder of the month while the battalion headquarters and two companies occupied defensive positions in Dong Hung and the other companies screened an area up to five kilometers around the ATF command post at Dong Hung

#### 6th Infantry Battalion

The 6th Infantry Battalion supported ATF 211 operations in the U-Minh Forest the entire month of November. Working with U.S. Air Cavalry units on 3 November approximately ten miles southeast of Dong Hung (WR 053 473), the combined force killed 22 VC and destroyed two VC platoon sized base camps and three sampans. Concurrent with the attack on the ATF 211 headquarters at Dong Hung on 6 November, the 6th Battalion headquarters at Tan Bang (VR 992 544) received fifteen rounds of 82mm mortars that wounded sixteen Marines.

After the 6th Battalion was relieved of its security mission at Tan Bang by an ARVN Ranger Battalion on 14 November, the marines initiated operations to the northwest and the west to within one kilometer of the Gulf of Thailand. Between 16 and 20 November they met with daily resistance. A strong enemy force was engaged in the middle of the afternoon of 17 November and lasted until approximately 0400 the following morning (VR 850 569). Three marines were killed and another 22 were wounded in the bloody battle. A sweep of the battle field on the morning of 18 November revealed thirteen dead VC, one AK-47, three cartridge belts, twenty 60mm mortar rounds, one B-40 launcher and fifteen grenades.

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Squad size contacts on 19 November yielded five VC killed, and the capturing of one VC, one submachinegun, two cartridge belts, twelve handgrenades and one kilogram of documents. Five thousand kilograms of salt and 57 sampans were also destroyed.

During the rest of the month, the 6th Battalion had almost daily contact which ended in casualties and loss of equipment to the enemy. When the VC attacked one company of marines in night defensive positions on 23-24 November, they were driven off by the organic weapons of the marines and U.S. and VN Air strikes. Two marines were killed in the attack and another three were wounded. The VC lost thirteen men, and the use of three home-made rocket launchers, six home-made rockets, eight B-40 rockets, two belts of 50 caliber machinegun ammunition, seventeen grenades and fifteen TNT charges.

The discovery of a fifty bed hospital and small information center (VR 861 569) to VR 873 591) on 29 November was another indication of the heavy involvement the VC have in the U-Minh Forest. Before the marines destroyed the complex, they recovered ten kilograms of medical supplies, one kilogram of documents, twenty 1.5 volt batteries and a VC Flag.

#### 7th Infantry Battalion

On 1 November the 7th Infantry Battalion was formed under an authorized force structure increase. The Battalion has been located in the rear area of the VRMC Training Center at Thu Duc where training and further organization are being implemented. The unit strength on 1 November was 692 men including 33 officers, 80 NCO's and 579 men.

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In addition to training and organization, the new battalion has been manning security outposts and escorting the movements of the two brigade headquarters and artillery Batteries A and C to and from Saigon.

1st and 2nd Artillery Battalions

Employment of the artillery batteries is included in the Operational Control summary that follows.

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# VNMC Operational Control Summary November 1969

UNDER THE

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF</u>	<u>OPERATION NAME</u>	<u>MISSION</u>
Brigade A	1-9	JCS	None	Reserve
	10-30	ATF 211 (VNN/VNMC)	Quyet Tien S.D.	RIF
Brigade B	1-9	21st ARVN Div	21/36/211	
		ATF 211 (VNN/VNMC)	Quyet Tien S.D.	RIF
		21st ARVN Div	21/36/211	
First Infantry Bn	10-30	JCS	None	Reserve
Second Infantry Bn	1-30	JCS	None	Reserve
	1-6	CTG 194.9	Giant Sling Shot	RIF
	7-14	5th Ranger Group	None	RIF
	15-30	JCS	None	Reserve
Third Infantry Bn	1-15	JCS Van Kiep NTC	None	Training
	16-24	JCS	None	Reserve
	25-30	5th Ranger Group	None	RIF
Fourth Infantry Bn	1-30	ATF 211 (VNN/VNMC)	Quyet Tien S.D.	RIF
			21/36/211	
Fifth Infantry Bn	1-8	ATG 211.2 21st ARVN	Quyet Tien S.D. 21/38	RIF
	9-30	ATF 211 (VNN/VNMC)	Quyet Tien S.D. 21/36	RIF
Sixth Infantry Bn	1-30	ATF 211 (VNN/VNMC)	Quyet Tien S.D. 21/36	RIF
Seventh Infantry Bn	1-30	VNMC Division	None	Trainin/Org-
Battery A	1-30	ATF 211	Quyet Tien S.D.	anisation
			21/36/211	D/S
Battery B	1-8	ATG 211.2, 21st ARVN	Quyet Tien S.D. 21/38	D/S
	9-30	ATF 211 (VNN/VNMC)	Quyet Tien S.D.	D/S
			21/36/211	
Battery C	1-30	ATF 211 (VNN/VNMC)	Quyet Tien S.D.	D/S
			21/36/211	
Battery D	1-30	JCS	None	Reserve
Battery E	1-30	CMD	None	D/S
Battery F	1-30	RSSZ	None	D/S

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VNN/VNMC STATISTICAL SUMMARY

VIETNAMESE NAVY:

	Daily Average		Searched		Detained	
	Oper	Empl	Junks	People	Junks	People
<u>COASTAL FORCE</u>						
I	49.8	47.7	14,829	58,777	22	121
II	42.8	40.4	44,722	44,722	5	52
III	46.4	46.1	8,180	28,180	41	135
IV	37.6	37.5	11,578	35,615	2	6
Sub-totals:			50,348	167,294	70	314
<u>*FLEET COMMAND</u>						
PATROL SHIPS	26.3	23.3	1,530	7,071	0	0
WPB's/PCF's	29.0	17.4	3,554	10,940	0	17
Sub-totals:			5,084	18,011	0	17
<u>RIVERINE AREA</u>						
RIVER ASSAULT GROUPS	134.3	127.4	7,100	39,200	0	0
TF 211	72.5	71.9	3,390	8,409	0	0
TF 212	78.5	65.8	9,601	31,132	0	0
<u>#CENTRAL TASK FORCE</u>	44.0	40.0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS:			75,523	264,054	70	331

VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS: (through 27 November)

VC/NVA: KIA 249 Captured 33 Suspects detained 27

VNMC: KIA 59 WIA 195 MIA 3

Hoi Chanh: 7

\*Provided 28 gunfire support missions.

#Includes RAG 27 and RTEG

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PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS AND CIVIC ACTION SUMMARY

In November 36 VC rallied to USN and VNN forces. Although this was considerably more than the nineteen who chieu hold in October, it did not surpass the record high of 208 Hoi Chanh that was experienced in July. The VNN Coastal Group 14 located in the Cua Dai River Basin of I CTZ accounted for approximately one half of the ralliers. Poor living conditions and lack of interest in the fighting were relatively common reasons this particular Hoi Chanh gave for rallying to the government.

In the Danang area 8,213 Vietnamese received medical aid from MEDCAP's via the NAVSUPACT facilities and mobile teams. The dental facilities at the NSAD station hospital and at Camp Tien Sha treated total of 389 Vietnamese dental patients. Another 463 Vietnamese were the recipients of dental aid from the mobile teams and outlying NSA detachments. The NSA Danang rendered civic action assistance to 22 schools, three orphanages, three dispensaries and 42 separate institutions during the month. One of the special projects that is under construction is a two story, six room Catholic school in the nearby village of Nhuong Nghia. Most of the manpower for this project are being provided by the members of the local parish.

Elements of the Third Naval Construction Battalion accounted for 2,840 medical/dental treatments including fourteen emergency evacuations and two surgical cases. The Seabee teams reported that they had completed 38 projects in November, including one school, two housing projects, three warehouses, five bridges, six public buildings, one medical facility, one

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electric project, three road upgrades, three new roads and thirteen other miscellaneous projects. The Seabee Team 0103 based in My Tho completed the Farmers Association Warehouse in nearby Tho Gao (XS 603 441) during the month. The 12 meter X 29 meter building feature the liberal use of steel and concrete. Seabee Team 0705, located in Gia Dinh Province northeast of Saigon (XT 933 007), completed work on the 8 meter X 23 meter concrete block building that was utilized as a 200-man galley by the Youth Services of Thu Duc. The Vinh My electrical system (WR 661 229) which consists of a 30 KW generator and a three wire electrical distribution system with 51 street lights was completed by Seabee 0811 working out of the city of Bac Lieu (WR 813 275). Seabee Team 0811 also completed a three room 10 meter X 14 meter plastered block recovery room for the Bac Lieu Province Hospital.

A very unusual PSYOPS operation involved CMHU-302 at Cam Ranh Bay on 4 November. Mid-day a large whale carcass estimated to weigh four tons had washed ashore on the beach at the U.S. Naval Communications Station, Cam Ranh Bay. The large whale had been dead seven to ten days and the after section was all but gone. A request was made and approved to remove the carcass from the beach and bury it in the Vietnamese village of Cam Ranh. The Seabees arrived at the beach with bulldozers, front loaders, dump trucks and plenty of manpower. About thirty Vietnamese villagers and sailors from the support facility and the communications station were also on hand. After fighting the pounding surf for three hours, the carcass was loaded into trucks which the villagers draped with red bunting for the eight mile trip to the village. The whale was buried during a solemn religious ceremony which was attended by the entire village and the Seabees.

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It is understood that the Vietnamese fisherman consider the washing ashore of a whale carcass as an extremely good omen well worth the effort expended to recover and bury it. The first Vietnamese fisherman to sight the whale will conduct burial ceremonies and will celebrate the day of finding once each year for three years in order that the fisherman from the village will prosper and have bountiful fishing.

The Riverine Strike Group PSYOPS team and RAD 152 medical personnel carried out a MEDCAP on 3 November thirteen miles south of Saigon in the Dong Binh Village (XS 887 685). The local village chief was very cooperative and arranged for an adequate location for the operation. While the medical personnel treated the 135 patients and distributed tooth brushes, toothpaste and medical supplies, the PSYOPS personnel distributed pamphlets, newspapers, cook books and children's story books.

Psychological Operations personnel in the RSSZ placed continued emphasis on the MEDCAPS, DENTCAPS, leaflet drops and pre-recorded loudspeaker broadcasts. A standard PSYOPS was completed on 11 November by TG 116.9 personnel utilizing a USA Slick helo for transportation. A total of 75,000 mixed PSYOPS leaflets were dropped into suspected enemy locations in the northern RSSZ (YS 140 740 and YS 160 760).

One of the weekly MEDCAPS regularly planned by the Clearwater forces was conducted on 18 November in the village of Vinh Thanh (YD 982 185). HMC Montgomery assisted by the PBR crews and VNN ACTOV trainees treated 150 children and adults. Various items and pamphlets were distributed including 75 bars of soap, 50 packages of tobacco, 25 boxes of book

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matches, 30 magazines, 50 anti-VC and 25 pro-GVN leaflets, and 100 medical leaflets.

A TG 115.1 Sea Tiger operation south of Danang (vicinity BT 180 543 to 158 524) featured loudspeaker PSYOPS broadcasts in areas where recent VC have rallied. Some of the more interesting PSYOPS tapes were entitled "who are your enemies?", "Hanoi has abandoned your cause", and "come home to your family that fears you will die." At one point in the patrol two males were sighted inland wearing civilian clothes. However, the tapes and a personal coercion by the VNN crew member were not sufficient inducement for the men to close to the PLF.

At Operation Sea Float/Solid Anchor near Old Nam Can City on the lower Ca Mau Peninsula the pacification effort made noteworthy progress in November. On 3 November the ground work was laid at the annex for a new and larger school. The old school has been divided for use as a school by the VNN PSYOPS team and as a check point for all people traveling in the area.

In order to improve the operation of the community the Nam Can District Chief has provided a temporary hamlet chief who will serve in that capacity until the resettles can organize their hamlet and hold elections.

Ten additional RF troops arrived at the annex on 13 November. Along with their weapons, they brought concertina, barbed wire and steel posts for the construction of an outpost (vicinity WQ 072 702). A Revolutionary Development Team finished construction of a small pier at the annex on

"107-4712:  
15 November. The log pier will accommodate the VNN YABUTA junks and the wood cutter sampans.

Beginning on 17 November, in addition to the normal Sea Float annex a Sea Float annex east was established on a temporary basis at the junction of the Cua Lon, Bo De and Dam Doi Rivers (WQ 213 719). It is hoped that the indigenous people of the surrounding areas will respond as enthusiastically as the people have at the original annex.

The following is a comparison of the statistics of the no-fire zone for the last four months:

<u>Date</u>	<u>No. Houses</u>	<u>No. Sampans</u>	<u>Stable Population</u>	<u>Transient Population</u>
30 Aug	25	180	160	540
24 Sep	110	226	660	798
28 Oct	401	540	2,406	1,620
11 Nov	703	775	4,218	2,325
18 Nov	784	780	4,704	2,340

The present total population of approximately 7,000 people represents about 23% of the Nam Can District population and has raised the total population of the Sea Float area of operation from approximately 5,000 to about 12,000. This has increased the percentage of the residents under direct gun protection of Sea Float forces from 45% in October to 58% in November.

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USN CIVIC ACTION STATISTICAL SUMMARY  
26 SEP - 25 OCT

TOTAL NUMBER OF MAN-DAYS\* PERSONNEL OF UNITS ENGAGED IN CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS: 3,909.5

COST OF SUPPLIES CONTRIBUTED BY MILITARY RESOURCES FOR CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS: VN\$ 4,437,756

EXPENDITURES FROM THE US/FWMAF CIVIC ACTION PSYWAR FUND: VN\$ 213,130

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS: VN\$ 237,250

PERCENTAGE OF U. S. MILITARY CIVIC ACTION ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED JOINTLY WITH:

Other FWMAF	<u>4.5%</u>
RVNAF	<u>5.0%</u>
U. S. civilian voluntary agencies	<u>1.0%</u>
Average percent of self-help by VN civilians:	<u>70%</u>
	<u>3.0%</u>

PROGRAMS

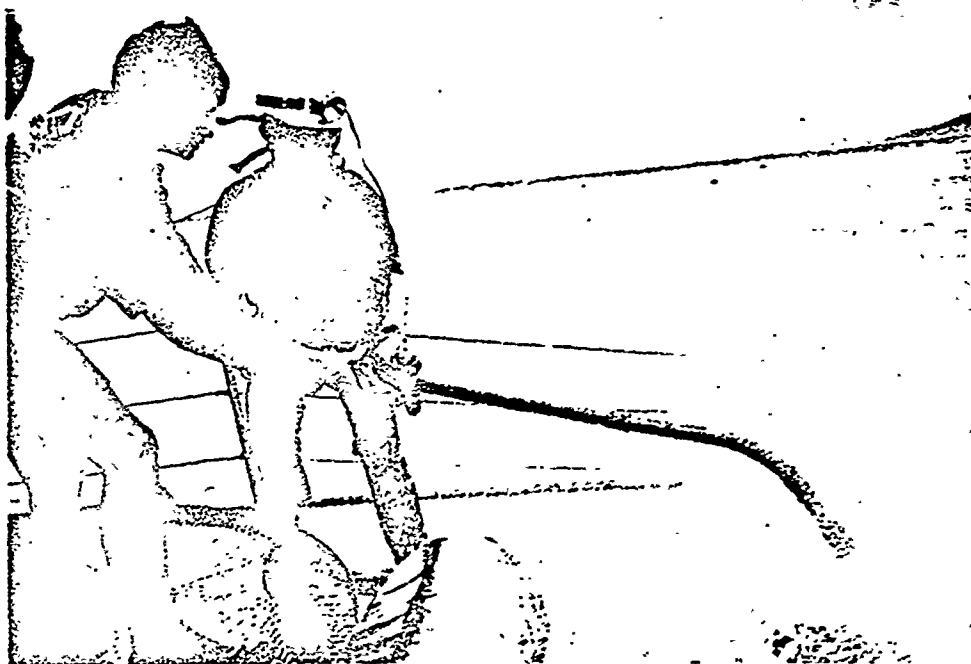
	<u>Man Days</u>	<u>Expenditures (VN\$)</u>
Economic Development	<u>432</u>	<u>563,292</u>
Education	<u>824.5</u>	<u>716,842</u>
Social Welfare	<u>2,007</u>	<u>3,236,318</u>
Transportation	<u>338</u>	<u>148,000</u>
Refugee	<u>308</u>	<u>223,684</u>

INSTITUTES ASSISTED

	<u>Number</u>
Schools	<u>37</u>
Orphanages	<u>23</u>
Hospitals/Dispensaries	<u>14</u>
Others	<u>30</u>

\* One Man-Day equals one ten hour working day

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As part of the U. S. Coast Guard's SCATTCR (Small Craft Assets, Training, and Turnover of Resources) program, BM2 McFadden instructs his Vietnamese counterpart, Do Tri, in the use of a fire hose during a shipboard fire drill.

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ACCELERATED TURNOVER PROGRAM AND TRAINING SUMMARY

The turnover of thirteen PCF's to the Vietnamese Navy on 31 October was followed by the turnover of the Coastal Surveillance Center at Qui Nhon, the reporting facility for the Market Time stations which the new Vietnamese PCF's are patrolling.

Although Vice Admiral E. R. Zumwalt, Jr., Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam and Commodore Tran Van Chon, Chief of Naval Operations, Vietnamese Navy had planned to be present at the ceremony which was held on 5 November at Qui Nhon, they were forced to remain in the air because unsatisfactory weather conditions prevented their plane from landing. The two officials of their respective governments maintained voice communications with the ceremony site and signed the official transfer documents while circling Qui Nhon.

This was the second coastal surveillance center that has been turned over to the Vietnamese. The center at An Thoi has been operated by the Vietnamese Navy since June 1969. The USN advisory staff at Qui Nhon including the repair facility, the surveillance center, and the PCF riders presently numbers approximately 40 men.

There were three turnover ceremonies of waterborne assets in November. On the morning of 7 November, a brief ceremony was held in order to officially transfer two LCM-8's to the Vietnamese Navy. This was the third turnover of logistic craft at Danang this year. In August, one LCU was transferred to the VMN, and in October, four LCM-8's were signed over to the Vietnamese Navy.

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Two more U.S. Coast Guard WPB's were transferred to the Vietnamese Navy during separate ceremonies at Danang and at Cat Lo. On 11 November at the Small Craft Repair Facility in Danang, Captain Ralph W. Niess, Commander U.S. Coast Guard Activities Vietnam, and Captain Nguyen Van Thong, Commander First Coastal Zone, Vietnamese Navy, signed the official documents which transferred the POINT GAMMON to the Vietnamese Navy. In preparation for this turnover, the POINT GAMMON, designated SCATTER 4, which identified it as the fourth WPB to commence the program, gradually integrated the VNN sailors into the WPB operations until the entire crew was manned by the VNN with the exception of the captain. When the unit became a VNN asset, the VNN prospective commanding officer, who had been serving as executive officer, was put in command.

In a similar ceremony at the Cat Lo Naval Support Activity Detachment on 17 November, the USCG WPB POINT COMFORT, which had been labeled as SCATTER 5, was turned over to the Vietnamese Navy. Captain Ralph W. Niess again represented the U.S. government, and Commodore Tran Van Chon, Chief of Naval Operations, Vietnamese Navy accepted the vessel on behalf of the Vietnamese.

Since the implementation of the SCATTER Program, there have been five WPB's added to the Vietnamese Navy. The following is a recapitulation of all the WPB's that have been turned over.

<u>SCATTER #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>USCG Name</u>	<u>VNN #</u>	<u>Coastal Zone Ops In</u>
1	16 May 69	POINT GARNET	HQ 700	III & IV
2	16 May 69	POINT LEAGUE	HQ 701	III & IV



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3	15 Sep 69	POINT CLEAR	HQ 702	III & IV
4	11 Nov 69	POINT GAMMON	HQ 703	I
5	17 Nov 69	POINT COMFORT	HQ 704	III & IV

With the first turnover of PCF's successfully completed, the USN START personnel were able to focus their attention in the milestones yet to be accomplished. The invaluable experience gained through the training of the first turnover crews is anticipated to eliminate many previous problems and to result in a maximum training effort realized. As of 25 November, there were 215 VNM trainees in various stages of on-the-job training at the PCF bases throughout Vietnam. Thirty-four of these trainees have successfully completed the course of instruction. In order to solidify the chain of command among the trainees after the formation of the VNM PCF crews, the respective VNM Coastal Zone commanders are issuing orders to each trainee specifically assigning him to a VNM prospective OinC. Both the trainee and the OinC are being notified that the VNM OinC is clearly responsible for disciplinary control, training progress, and overall welfare of the trainee. The practice of docking of VNM trainees pay for instances of unauthorized absences and missing patrols has been universally adopted and has proven successful in deterring such disciplinary problems.

COMNAVJAG FIVE reported at the end of the month that the PBR VNM training was proceeding in a satisfactory manner. One of the SEA LORDS Operation Commanders, CTG 194.2 on the Song Ong Doc, has inaugurated a training program whereby the VNM liaison officer, an off duty U.S. Patrol Officer, and VNM trainees carry out a boat and weapons training session

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each afternoon prior to sending the trainees out on patrol. The problem of infrequent or total lack of pay for the VNM trainees appear to have been solved and has contributed in a positive manner to the morale and the performance of the men. The guidance of the VNM PBR Commander C TF 212 has increased the effectiveness of the VNM liaison officer.

Since the majority of the river assault craft that are administratively assigned to TF 194.7, are under the operational control of other commanders, the continued success of the RAC ACTOV training rested heavily on the on-scene commanders. Each commander has been directed to devote the equivalent of one day per week to each RAC and his control for training. The program to be carried out for the remainder of the RAC to be turned over has been divided into three phases. The first phase will stress individual skill development and completion of the practical factors. The second phase is designed to organize the trainees into three man boat crews with their assignments based on the aptitude they demonstrated during the initial phase and to commence training as boat crew. The final phase will complete the boat crew and stress group tactics with emphasis on battle problems.

Captain R. I. Finke, ACOS for Communication, represented Vice Admiral Zumwalt, Chief Naval Advisory Group, at the ACTOV Communications school graduation ceremony held at the U.S. Naval Communications Station Cam Ranh Bay on 20 November. Along with a short address Captain Finke presented graduation certificates to the VNM officers who had successfully completed the eight week basic communications officer course and to the VNM enlisted

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men who had satisfactorily completed an eight week enlisted communications operators curriculum and the eight week teletype repair course.

At the end of the month, there were 1870 VNN personnel participating in craft maintenance training. This represents 35.0% of the projected need. There were 128 VNN personnel undergoing supply training and a total of 284 VNN have already been phased into various spaces in the VNN logistic support organization.

The first of 40 logistic installations was turned over to the Vietnamese Navy on 29 November at the My Tho Naval Base. The turnover of the Navy logistic support has been an integral part of the overall ACTOV program. At the end of the month construction was in progress at nine of the bases and at one of the ATSB's planned for turnover to the VNN.

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NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Detachments of the Naval Support Activity Saigon reported numerous enemy attacks during the month of November. The Naval Support Activity at My Tho received three rocket/mortar attacks during November. There were no casualties or damage reported. My Tho also reported two sightings of enemy sapper swimmers. In each case the swimmer disappeared when concussion grenades were used. NSA Dong Tam reported four rocket/mortar attacks with no casualties and only minor damage to building T-1055 and to Basin Street. On 30 November ATSB Go Dau Ha experienced an explosion on its northern Ammi. It was believed the result of a possible sapper attack or floating mine. One USN was injured, and two, 60 KW generators were damaged beyond repair. One generator was blown over the side and one reefer unit was damaged. The shelter roof over the reefers was badly damaged. The Ammi pontoon had one compartment completely destroyed, while the main deck was buckled transversely in three locations at approximately 20 feet apart.

Personnel were lost in separate occasions when a Boston Khaler from Phouc Khanh enroute was swamped and overturned by a large wave resulting in one ARVN Warrant Officer missing and presumed dead by drowning. A VNN sailor was carried away by a swift current while working on a PER moored at NSAD My Tho. The VNN sailor was missing and presumed dead by drowning. The USS BENEWAH (APB-35) reported one USN missing. The man is believed to have fallen overboard. An extensive search provided no results.

The NAVSUPACT Detachment My Tho, the first major U.S. Naval Support

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Activity in the Republic of Vietnam, was turned over to the Vietnamese Navy in a ceremony on 29 November. CAPT W.L. Siple, COMNAVSUPPACT, turned the base over to CAPT Nguyen Van Lich, Commander VNN logistics Support Command, in a ceremony at the base which is located 45 miles southwest of Saigon. My Tho will now become a Vietnamese Navy Logistical Support Base for units operating in the Operation Game Warden region on the My Tho and Mekong Rivers in the Mekong Delta.

In a civic action project, Naval Support Activity Saigon Seabees rebuilt a damaged Vietnamese home near Nha Be after it had received a direct hit from a 107mm rocket.

The personnel status as of 31 October (including NAVSUPPFAC Cam Ranh Bay and all assigned craft) included 165 officers, 2975 enlisted men, and 998 civilians.

The Naval Support Activity Detachments of Saigon's craft accounted for 9,476 short tons of surface cargo, 2,443 measurement tons of ammunition, 716,025 gallons of water, and 213 passengers hauled during November.

Naval Support Activity Detachments' craft assets were deployed to various locations: The USS MARK (AKL-12), USS BRULE (AKL-28), UFR-890, YF-865; the 100 foot utility boats, MOROCCO and MONDERO, and an available LCM-8 provided routine resupply throughout the Mekong Delta. The USS MONMOUTH COUNTY (LST-1032) relieved the USS LUZERNE COUNTY (LST-902) as resupply LST on 22 November. The APL-30 is scheduled to join APL-26 and APL-27 as soon as berths are available. The APL-26 and APL-27

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provided additional berthing facilities in support of the ACTOV Program. The USS KRISHNA (ARL-38) departed RVN for RAV Yokosuka on 6 November. The USS ASKARI (ARL-30) returned from RAV on 4 November and presently is at Long Xuyen. The USS SPHINX (ARL-24) provided services for Giant Slingshot. The USS SATYR (ARL-23) is off the west coast of the Republic of Vietnam in the vicinity of Song Ong Doc while the USS TUTUILA (ARG-4) is repairing PCF's at An Thoi.

During the month of November, the detachments were engaged in the following activities:

Cam Rahn Bay:	The ammo drydock is on site and construction of the concrete block plant at NAF is underway.
An Thoi:	The ACTOV construction program is underway by the 3rd Naval Construction Battalion.
Cat Lo/Vung Tau:	The construction of a boat repair building is 50 percent complete. This includes construction of security fence and lighting around Vung Tau ammo storage point and the repair of security fence and lighting at the Navy Liaison Division.
Dong Tam:	The water distribution is 99 percent complete and awaiting pump parts. The upgrade of ashore facilities for 194.7 is underway and the upgrade of Army facilities for VNN occupancy is also underway.
Binh Thuy:	The galley and a forty-man BOQ is complete.
Saigon:	The construction of a special warfare group building at NAVFORV is 95 percent complete.

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Go Dau Ha: The construction of a new galley Ammi is awaiting arrival of the Ammi. Base layout revamping is underway.

Seafloat: The construction for operation Solid Anchor was underway, and operation SEAFLOAT, a mobile support base anchored in the Cua Non River of the Ca Mau peninsula is being moved ashore.

Phu Cuong: The phase 2 construction is complete.

Ha Tien: The ACTOV construction of helo pads is complete and the construction of NOC is underway.

During the month of November, the USS TUTUILA (ARG-4); NAVSUPPFAC Cam Ranh Bay; NAVSUPPACT Detachments Qui Nhon; An Thoi; and Cat Lo all provided repair support to Task Force 115 (Market Time). The NAVSUPPACT Detachments Nha Be; Bin Thuy; and Ben Luc; PER Mobile Base II; UREM-10, YREM-20; YREM-21; USS HARNETT COUNTY (LST-821), and USS CARRETT COUNTY (LST-786) all provided repair support to Task Force 116 (Game Warden). Task Force 194 was supported by the USS SATYR (ARL-23), USS SPHINX (ARL-24) USS ASKARI (ARL-38), YREM-17, and NSAD Dong Tam.

The overall effectiveness of the general supply operations of NSA Detachments in fulfilling their role of supplying the operational forces has been tabulated at 66 percent gross effectiveness and 77 percent net effectiveness. A total of 16,340 orders were issued and 1,115 back orders were released. A total of 24,806 operational demands were processed.

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Support from the Army depot at Long Binh during November was 52 percent as compared with 53 percent in October and 10 percent in September.

The training support of Vietnamese personnel for the month of November was as follows:

<u>Location</u>	<u>VNN PERS</u>	<u>TYPE TRAINING</u>
An Thoi	52	PCF Crew
My Tho	49	OJT/CMS
Nha Be	39	OJT/CMS
	20	PBR Crew
Qui Nhon	2	OJT/CMS
Ben Luc	9	OJT/CMS
Sa Dec	2	OJT/CMS
YREM-16	21	PBR Crew
Binh Thuy	37	OJT/CMS
	48	PBR Crew
Cat Lo	40	OJT/CMS
YREM-20	11	PBR Crew
Dong Tam	24	OJT/CMS
	20	PCF Crew

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NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, DANANG

Cargo operations for the month of November were severely hampered by adverse weather conditions throughout the I Corps Tactical Force. Current rates of retrograde cargo generation suggested a satisfactory export situation during December. As the I CTZ is currently receiving the effects of the monsoon season, the conditions and their effect on cargo operations are unpredictable. CONUS shipping projections indicate substantially the same level of import activity in December as was experienced during November. The VN railroad spur through bridge ramp cargo facility has been cleared; however, the staging area near the spur line at Phu Bai was not completed. In view of this situation there will be a delay in cargo offering for the VNRS rail system. A summary of port operations during November follows:

	<u>Off-Load</u>		<u>Backload</u>		<u>Through-put</u>	
	S/T	M/T	S/T	M/T	S/T	M/T
Danang	136,222	264,938	63,805	132,128	200,027	397,066
Chu Lai	19,962	42,121	6,890	22,171	26,852	64,292
Dong Ha/Qua Viet	5,845	10,061	10,739	35,442	16,584	45,503
Hue/Tan My	14,537	23,148	3,577	12,448	18,114	35,596
Sa Huynh	1,150	1,730	115	413	1,265	2,143

Operations were halted for 14 days during November due to unfavorable weather. On 4 November the cargo barge LO 702 grounded in the vicinity of buoy 1 at Tan My after a towline to the tug DIAMOND BAY parted. Salvage operations have been unsuccessful due to weather and other priority operations. An LCM-8 and UDT 12 Det ECHO was provided on 13 November to embark

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USMC and ARVN troops vicinity North Point Danang and transported them to the Lien Chieu Esso Depot. On 27-28 November, the SS GOLDEN MOUNTAIN was taken in tow by the USS RECLAIMER (ARS 42) answering a call for assistance. The GOLDEN MOUNTAIN had experienced engineering and flooding casualties enroute Danang. In addition to normal coastal operations the following YFU/LCU's were committed to Keystone Cardinal Operations during the month:

Unit III	1-9 Nov	21 YFU/LCU
Unit IV	15-30 Nov	29 YFU/LCU

During November, LCM 8/6's conducted 195 harbor shuttles carrying 181 short tons of cargo and made amphibious beachings along the I CTZ coast carrying 2,509 short tons. A significant increase in hull damage to LCU/YFU craft has occurred in conjunction with Keystone Cardinal operations. In one case, YFU-58 hull damage was such that the craft is no longer suitable for cargo operations until extensive repairs have been made.

The combined gross effectiveness for supply demands remained the same as during October at Danang and Chu Lai with 92 percent and a net effectiveness of 95 percent. The overall Class I supply situation remained good. There were 16 days of supply of A rations on hand and 9,102,036 C ration meals on hand and another 5,233,164 C ration meals due in.

Fuel issues in the I Corps Tactical Zone in November decreased from the October rate of 1,578,000 gallons per day to 1,563,000 gallons per day. Weather has caused Sea Load Lines at Chu Lai and Tan My to be down much of the month. The YOG-76 was mined at Cua Viet on 13 November and was replaced by YOG-56 on 14 November.

The personnel status for the Naval Support Activity, Danang at the end of November:

<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
NSA	436	9,002
YR-71	2	89
Total	438	9,091
On board total:	432	9,731

There were seven officer and 115 enlisted personnel assigned to Commander Naval Forces, Vietnam for various projects. There were 859 persons performing base security duties and 131 persons performing afloat security during the month. Eighteen persons extended their tours during November bringing the total for 1969 to 1,130. The following numbers of personnel were performing cargo handling duties during November:

Hatch Teams	278
Ramp Teams	149
Checkers	152
Admin Support	173
Fleet Air Support	42
Total	794

There were a total of 165,664 military personnel in the I CTZ during November supported by the Naval Support Activity, Danang.

The dredge DAVISON removed 145,677 cubic meters from the entrance channel at Tan My and the dredge SANDCASTER dredged 28,508 cubic meters in the Perfume River. At Cua Viet the dredge SWELLMASTER returned on station

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12 November and removed 85,249 cubic meters from the entrance channel. The dredge SANDCASTER dredged 62,209 cubic meters at the upper and lower crossings.

Construction for Project MOOD, move out of Danang, was 77 percent complete for Navy facilities and 35 percent complete for all military facilities. Lease termination negotiations were completed for the White Elephant and NSA Senior Officers' quarters.

CEMU-301 assumed operations and production responsibility for mineral products at Chu Lai to support the Southern I CTZ line of communication requirements. The Naval Support Activity, Danang was tasked by COMNAVFORV to act as the I CTZ coordinator in the construction of the Vietnamese Navy Dependent shelters at VNN bases throughout the I Corps.

The Third Naval Construction Brigade commenced construction on the Fleet Logistic Center retrograde facility at Red Beach which consists of 10,300 SF of maintenance facilities, 4,200 SF of storage, 19,200 SY of asphaltic concrete open storage, 8,000 SY of open storage, administration spaces and utilities. A total of 2,437 facilities in 23 cantonments at the Quang Tri/Dong Ha combat base were turned over to the U.S. Army and the ARVN. The Army received 1,802 facilities with an initial cost of \$7,208,000; the ARVN received 635 facilities with an initial cost of \$795,000. The facilities involved buildings, runways, hospitals and utility systems.

Operation Keystone Cardinal was completed on 30 November. Due to weather associated with the northeast monsoon season, damage to lighterage craft loading LSD/LPD at sea off Cua Viet was extensive. A total of 28

LCU/YFU suffered damage that precluded their continued use during the operation. Four craft sustained major damage that will take in excess of thirty days to correct.

There were 1,458 patients admitted to the Danang station hospital during November, including 47 prisoners-of-war. Of this total, 287 were battle casualties, 270 for major surgery, 121 for minor surgery and 193 malaria admissions. The average daily patient census for November was 399 with 347 beds occupied at month's end.

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### THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

Enemy activity was light during November with only 12 incidents reported and these were evenly distributed throughout the I Corps Tactical Zone. The largest attack involved a convoy south of Danang which was hit by a land mine and small arms fire. There were no casualties in any of the attacks.

The 1969 Line of Communication program continued on schedule throughout the I Corps Tactical Zone. Route QL-1 from the Kim Kien bridge to Dong Ha to the Vandegrift combat base was turned over to the Ministry of Public Works. South of Danang on Route QL-1 from the Song Can Lau to the intersection of routes QL-1 and 535 an emergency maintenance and upgrade program was undertaken to open the road and keep it trafficable through the monsoon season. Routine maintenance work continued on routes ML-13C, ML-12E, ML-12W, ML-1C, ML-1D and through the Hai Van Pass.

Construction of aircraft shelters continued with 119 shelters under construction, 64 shelters completed except for concrete covers and 46 shelters were completed. During November, 25 shelters in the approved program were released from hold status and 18 shelters were cancelled.

The Dong Ha electrical distribution system was completed on 15 November as scheduled. The Seabees of NMCB-62 completed the construction of the Dong Ha highway bridge ahead of schedule on 15 November. The Hue by-pass ferry project which included two ferry landings with access roads, security towers, fencing and lighting was 88 percent complete at month's end; how-

ever, final completion has been delayed by heavy rains and expected beneficial occupancy date is now 15 December. All work under the Military Construction project to rehabilitate the Phu Bai airfield, except for the overlay of the parking apron, has been postponed to late January or February due to the high water table which exists during the monsoon season. Construction of the asphaltic concrete overlay of the parking apron is proceeding and is now 37 percent complete; however, continuous rain is hampering progress and no beneficial occupancy date has been established. Naval construction forces completed two military class 30 timber bridges during November on secondary roads north of Hue. Materials were being shipped and staged for construction of the two remaining new bridges.

In the Danang area work on the partial restoration of ASP-1 was useably completed and occupied by the Fleet Logistics Center. Additional funds have been established for the new work which is being delayed by weather conditions. Construction of the Tactical Air Data Center in Danang for the First Marine Air Wing was completed during the month. The 200-bed hospital for the First Medical Battalion which included a medical and dental complex and canteen and support facilities was completed and fully occupied. Naval Construction Forces completed the repair of damage to the Naval Support Activity, Danang warehouses caused by a rocket attack in early September. The work was accomplished by NMCB's 8 and 53 prior to their redeployment. At the Marble Mountain Air Facility the Seabees of NMCB-121 continued work on the operational, administration and support facilities to accommodate the redeployment of two helicopter squadrons. The facilities have been turned over on an incremental basis and the project is 68 percent completed

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with a scheduled completion date of 6 December. The Seabees of NMCB-7 completed the construction of a 6,000 SF hangar with 1,200 SF of storage and office space for the 174th Aviation Company at Duc Pho.

During November, NMCB-1 continued a heavy construction workload in the III and IV Corps Tactical Zone at seven locations with a total of 253 men. Construction at the Vietnamese Navy base at An Thoi continued and the project is currently 55 percent completed. Construction of the Advanced Tactical Support Base at Rach Soi was completed during the month. Work was commenced at the ACTOV base at Ha Tien. At Nam Can, work was temporarily suspended awaiting fill to be provided by contract. Satisfactory progress continued on the VNN self-help/maintenance program.

During November, NMCB's 11 and 53 completed their redeployments without reliefs as part of Operation Keystone Cardinal. On 22 November, NMCB-8 was relieved by NMCB-121 at Camp Haskins in Danang. NMCB-1 moved from Camp Campbell in Phu Bai to Camp Haskins as part of the realignment of Naval Construction Forces in the I Corps Tactical Zone.

Rear Admiral Spencer R. Smith, CEC, USN, Commander Naval Construction Battalions, U. S. Pacific Fleet, visited Naval Construction Forces in the I CTZ from 26 to 30 November and was briefed by the Commander Third Naval Construction Brigade on current Seabee operations.

Naval Construction Forces have a funded backlog amounting to 23.6 weeks of horizontal work and 42 weeks of vertical work. The programmed

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backlog amounts to an additional 3.6 weeks of horizontal and 6.7 weeks of vertical work. These projections were based on the planned employment of five Naval Construction Battalions.

During November, Seabee personnel were awarded four Bronze Stars, 23 Navy Commendation Medals, one Navy and Marine Corps Medal, 74 Navy Achievements, one Purple Heart Medal and 310 Combat Action Awards.

### GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviation and terms are commonly used in the combat zone by all agencies and are listed here in amplification of those used in the text:

ABF	Attack by fire
Amni Pontoon	A multi-purpose barge, standard size is twenty eight feet by ninety feet
ARVN	Army of the Republic of Vietnam
ASPB	Assault Support Patrol Boat
ATC	Armored Troop Carrier
ATSB	Advance Tactical Support Base
A/W	Automatic Weapons
Black Pony/Bronco	OV-10 Twin Engine Turboprop Counter-insurgency Aircraft
CCL	Command and Communication Boat
CG	Coastal Group (VMS)
CHICOM	Chinese Communist
CIDG	Civilian Irregular Defense Group- mercenaries of Vietnamese, Laotian, Cambodian descent who fight primarily around their own villages
Commo Liaison	Enemy communication routes or personnel
Crip	Civilian Reconnaissance Intelligence Platoon
CS	Tear Gas Grenades
CTZ	Corps Tactical Zone
CZ	Coastal Zone
Delta Hawk	Mohawk OV-10 Aircraft

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D/S	Direct support
Dustoff	Medical evacuation by helicopter
ENIFF	Enemy initiated firefight
FSB	Fire Support Base
FWMAF	Free World Military Assistance Forces
GDA	Gun Damage Assessment
GVN	Government of Vietnam
H&I	Harassment and Interdiction Fire Support
JCS	Joint General Staff
KIA	Killed in Action
Kit Carson Scouts	Former Viet Cong who have come over to the side of the Saigon government and serve with allied military units
LAFT	Light Attack Fire Team (OV-10's)
LAW	Light Anti-tank Weapon
LCPL	Landing Craft, Personnel, Large
LDNN	Vietnamese equivalent of USN underwater demolition team
LHFT	Light Helo Fire Team
LOH	OH-6 Light Observation Helicopter
LRRP	Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol
MACV	Military Assistance Command, Vietnam
MATSB	Mobile Advanced Tactical Support Base
MEDCAP	Medical Civic Action Program
MONITOR	Heavily armored LCM-6 (40mm cannon or 105mm howitzer)
MRB	Mobile Riverine Base
MSB	Minesweeper, Boat

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MSD	Minesweeper, Drone
MSP	Mobile Strike Force - mercenaries who deploy and go anywhere
NGFS	Naval Gunfire Support
NILO	Naval Intelligence Liaison Officer
NOD	Night Observation Device
NVA	North Vietnamese Army
PBR	Patrol Boat, River
PCF	Patrol Craft, Fast (Swift Boat)
PG	Patrol Gunboat
PRU	Provincial Reconnaissance Unit
PSA	Provincial Sector Advisor
PSYOPS	Psychological Operations
RAD	River Assault Division
RAG	River Assault Group (VNN)
RAID	River Assault and Interdiction Division
RAS	River Assault Squadron
RF/PF	Regional Forces/Popular Forces
RIF	Reconnaissance in Force
RPG	Rocket Propelled Grenade
RSSZ	Rung Sat Special Zone
SAR	Search and Rescue
SEAWOLF	UH-1B Helo, heavily armed, USN operated
SHADOW	C-119 aircraft
SKIMMER	20' fiberglass rowboat
SLICK	UH-1B helo

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Solid Anchor

Spooky

SSB

STAB

TACR

Toe Popper

USARV

VNMC

WBG

Zippo

BC

TACAIR

RD Cadre

RAV

SF

SY

VNRS

Transition of Sea Float operations  
ashore

C-47 aircraft

Swimmer support boat (skimmer)

SEAL Team Assault Boat

Tactical Area of Responsibility (also  
referred to as AO)

Small explosive VC booby trap

United States Army, Vietnam

Vietnamese Marine Corps

Waterborne Guardpost (NWBGP - Night  
Waterborne Guardpost)

Flame thrower equipped ATC or Monitor

Body count

Tactical Air Support

Revolutionary Development Cadre

Regular availability

Square feet

Square yards

Vietnamese railroad spur

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